■ News / A7
PDI mystery looking for detectives; keep an eye out for clues

■ World / A9
Freed Italian hostage accidentally shot by US forces

■ Lifestyle / G1
Why Entrepreneur of the Year award goes to Socorro Ramos

■ News / A4
Ex-PBA star Distrito to stand trial for murder in Las Vegas

JOB Market
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Boy Negro, Bicolana wife 'met' thru text messaging

By Juan Escandor Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LIBMANAN, Camarines Sur—Cyril Daza, 19, could not believe that her husband, whom she knew as Kim Ted Santos, was a suspected member of a terror group allied to Osama bin Laden.

Daza said she did not know much about Bin

BOY NEGRO/ A22

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Wrist video watch gives Israel army deadly edge

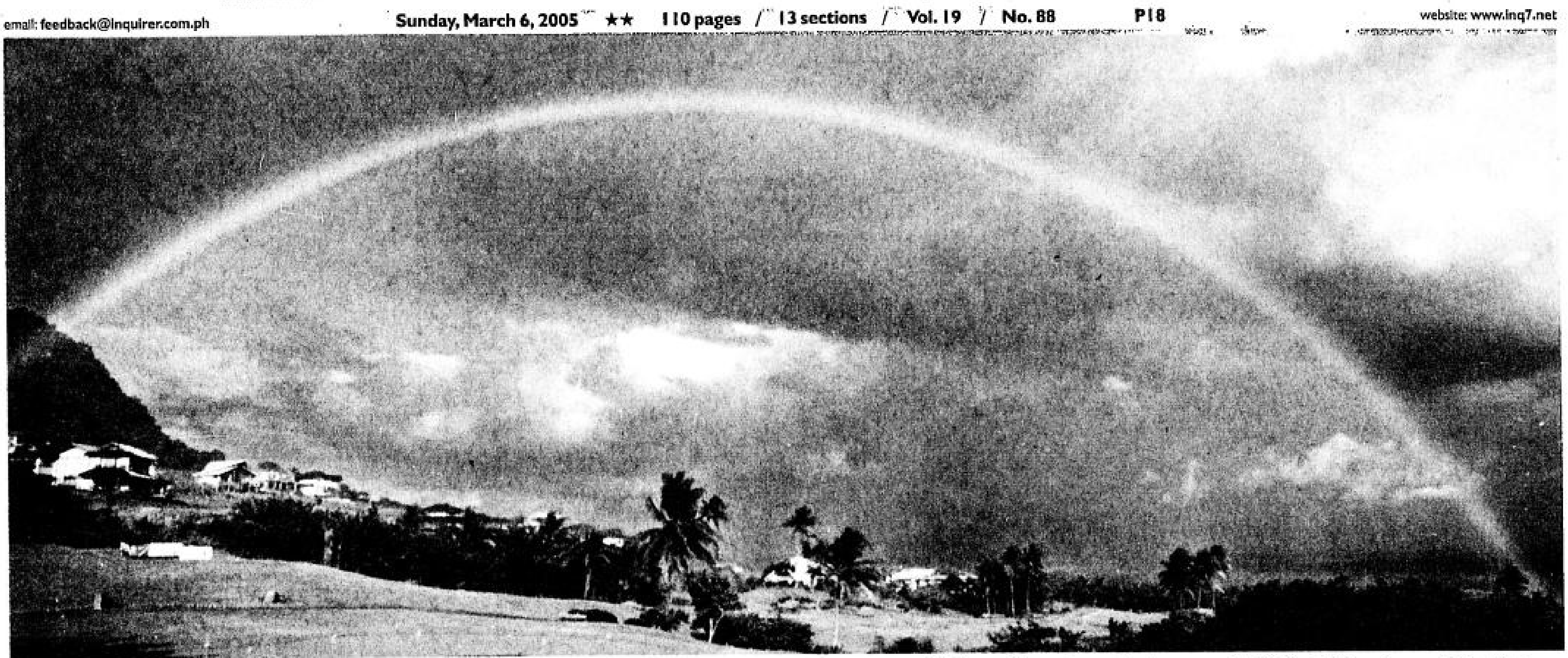
HOLON, Israel—Israeli troops are now sporting gear that Dick Tracy would be proud of: tiny video screens, worn on the wrist, which display video shot by unmanned airplanes.

Similar screens have been

WRIST/ A22

DICK TRACY, SA TOTOO LANG!

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Sunday, March 6, 2005 ★★ 110 pages / 13 sections / Vol. 19 / No. 88 P18
website: www.inq7.net



SOMEWHERE OVER THE RAINBOW rolling hills of greenery cradle the Tagaytay Midlands, a residential site with a golf course and clubhouse. Most of its raw lands are owned by Highlands Prime Inc., a publicly-listed property firm owned by the SM group of companies. The Midlands is a typical model development which offers the most urbane facilities without, however, disturbing the natural order of bucolic refreshments. ROGER CARPIO

Maxi take in Minimi deal

Drilon on oil hikes: Buy back Petron

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Abigail L. Ho

SENATE President Franklin Drilon yesterday revived calls for government to reacquire a majority stake in Petron Corp., saying this would be the "quick solution" to the escalating cost of oil.

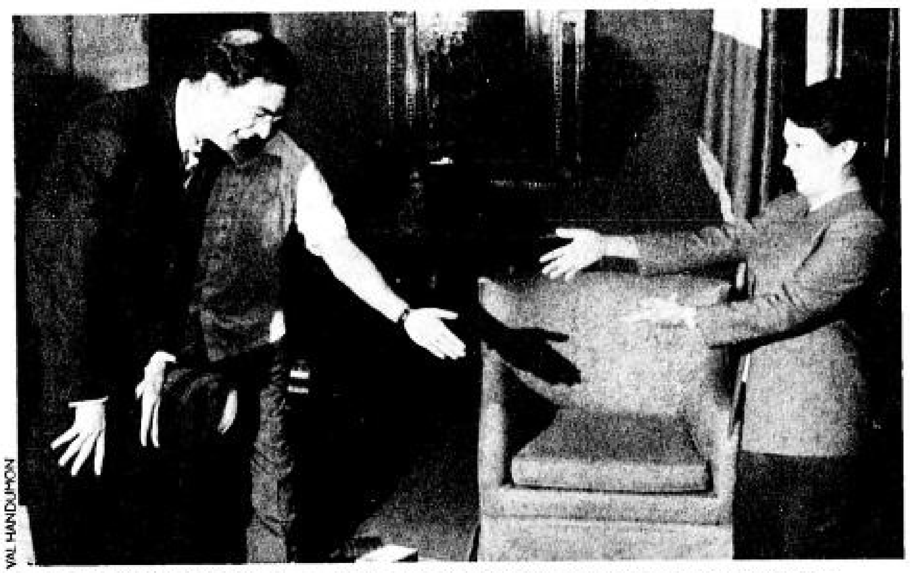
Warning of the social costs of the unregulated rise in domestic oil prices, Drilon said that reacquiring government control of Petron could serve as "a check on the monopoly and cartel that is now prevailing in the oil industry."

Drilon made the call following the recent record rise in world oil prices, which prompted the energy department to issue a warning to consumers to prepare for a regime of more frequent hikes in petroleum pump prices.

True enough, pump prices of gasoline, diesel and kerosene again rose by 50 centavos a liter on Friday and Saturday because of the skyrocketing prices of crude and refined petroleum products in the regional and world markets.

First to initiate the price hikes

DRILON/ A8


VAL HANDUMON

TIME ON HER HANDS: With arms wide open, President Arroyo welcomes to the Palace on Saturday Jose Santana, president of the giant watch maker Timex. By July this year, Timex plans to pour $13M more into its 26-year old plant at the Mactan Export Processing Zone. *(Story on Page A2)*

P.6-B contract for 1,700 guns placed on hold

By Fe Zamora

LIGHT, extremely powerful and accurate, the 5.56 mm, M249 Squad Automatic Weapon (Saw)—or Minimi— is a light machinegun preferred by the Armed Forces' fighting elite.

It is also allegedly one of the most overpriced firearms in the military arsenal today, an INQUIRER source in the AFP claimed.

It is so expensive that "ordinary soldiers would cry 'Pity me!' if he learned about it," a colonel said, alluding to perception among foot soldiers that huge military deals were sometimes at their expense.

A contract for 1,700 Minimi machine guns worth P593.3 million is among several military procurements which have been put on hold pending a review by Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz.

The contract is for a second order of Minimis under the AFP Modernization Program.

The Minimis, used in several NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) countries, were the first weapons bought by the Armed Forces using money raised from the sale of portions

MAXI/ A22

Journalists hits AFP plan to gag media on terror

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau
and Luige A. del Puerto
in Manila

LUCENA CITY—The Armed Forces' proposal of stiff penalties for journalists and media organizations that interview suspected terrorists is an unacceptable "curtailment of press freedom," the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said yesterday.

NUJP chair Inday Espina-Varona called on all media groups to challenge the "preposterous" proposal aired on Friday by Lt. Gen. Edilberto Adan, AFP deputy chief of staff, and said it opened an entire society to "the dangerous situation of having a few people dictate what the public should read or listen to.

"Adan engages in typical double-speak when he says the military distinguishes between legitimate dissenters and terrorists. His proposal is pure and simple censorship and an imposition of prior restraint on the press," Varona said in a statement.

JOURNALISTS/ A8

"THE THRILL of survival," Father James Reuter, SJ, recalls what liberation as a POW at Los Baños was like. Also present are US envoy Francis Ricciardone and Sen. Richard Gordon. RAFFY LERMA

Songs kept hope alive at Barracks 19

By Marlon Ramos
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LOS BAÑOS, Laguna—Even during the darkest hours of their lives, Fr. James Reuter and a group of other young Jesuits never lost courage and hope.

The songs they composed during those horrific days when they were internees at the Japanese concentration camp here showed it: "What is the hope that the white flags bring?/What puts the zip in the songs we sing?/ What's the reason for the crowd 'round the barracks door?/That some day we will be free!"

Reuter sang the song from which those lyrics were taken at the commemoration here of the

SONGS/ A21

Sports proves the disabled can

By Fe Zamora

BLESSED are the blind.

With patience, proper coaching and customized balls, they can now play ping-pong and volleyball, with a little modification, of course.

Youngsters from the Philippine School of the Blind (PSB) in Pasay City showed how to play the games during their annual competition—dubbed "Spectacular Sportsfest for the Deaf and Blind"—held Friday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Instead of the ping-pong ball flying over the net, it was rolled under toward the other player. The receiving player returned the ball also by hitting it with his racquet, making sure it also went under the net to his opponent.

The blind contenders, standing at the opposite ends of the table, "watched" the movement of the ball—filled with pellets—by following the hissing sound it made.

GAMES that students from the Philippine School of the Blind play during its "Spectacular Sportsfest" at the Cuneta Astrodome on Friday include ping-pong with customized balls. RAFFY LERMA

Dennis Lucero of the Yellow Team, who won over Ronald Manguiat of the Blue Team, was so focused on the sound the ball made that he demanded "absolute silence" from the audience.

"The footsteps are distracting," Lucero complained.

Another Yellow Team player, Annabel Tolentino, who played against Celeste Panti of the Red Team, complained about the distraction caused by students who milled around the ping-pong table.

SPORTS/ A21

Second FRONTPAGE
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and the eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms..

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/03/06/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Senate, House tiff may affect VAT

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Philip C. Tubeza

THE PALACE-sponsored value-added tax measure could end up a casualty in the raucous bickering between the Senate and the House of Representatives over the former's hasty approval of the 2005 national budget.

Senate President Franklin Drilon said he expected a "very difficult" bicameral conference over the VAT measure because of bruised feelings.

"Unless this is settled, I'm afraid the Senate and the House will take very stiff postures in the bicam," Drilon told reporters yesterday.

"If there are differences in version, and I expect there will be differences, the bicam could result in a deadlock if it is not resolved," Drilon said.

But House Majority Floor Leader Prospero Nograles yesterday said that the Senate and House squabble should not affect Senate deliberations over the proposed expanded VAT bill.

"What has VAT got to do with it? It should not even affect their deliberations unless they're getting personal," Nograles said yesterday.

"The VAT is for government to get more revenues for our people. It has nothing to do with the pork of the senators or the pork of the congressmen," he added.

Malacañang is banking on the passage of the VAT measure to raise the bulk of the targeted P80 billion additional revenues the government needs to get out of its fiscal rut.

Drilon reiterated his plan to seek out a solution with Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr.

"What is important is that we must be able to come up with this measure and I am concerned that unless the ruffled feelings are smoothed and the issue is put to rest, it can affect the bicameral conference committee debates," Drilon said.

The Senate last week passed the P907.56-billion budget for 2005 without convening the bicameral conference committee. The Senate action angered many congressmen who had hoped that their pork barrel would be restored to its original level in the bicam, the venue for reconciling conflicting versions of a measure.

Drilon said that congressmen should not get angry with the senators but should instead be happy that they had merely adopted their approved budget.

The House-approved budget provides for a 40-percent reduction in the pork barrel of legislators from P200 million to P120 million for each senator and from P70 million to P40 million per congressman.

"It is very important that we should be able to set aside personal animosities and look at the legislative agenda without rancor and emotion," Drilon said at a forum at Sulo Hotel.

Drilon noted that there were "radical differences" between the House version of the VAT bill and the one shaping up in the Senate ways and means committee chaired by Sen. Ralph Recto.

The House version provides for an increase in VAT from 10 percent to 12 percent, while Recto's committee prescribes a single rate of 10 percent but lifts exemptions on certain goods and services.

Drilon said he expected Recto's report to be approved by the Senate as a whole.

Recto is scheduled to sponsor his committee report on Monday to pave the way for floor debates and approval within the week.

After the Senate approves the measure, the two chambers would then convene a bicameral conference to reconcile their respective versions preparatory to its final approval and enactment into law.

But time is running out because Congress is scheduled to go on recess on March 18 for the Lenten break.

As this developed, Nograles called on senators to stop making statements to media about the congressmen's purported plan to reenact the budget to restore their 70-million pork barrel fund each.

He said that while leaders of both chambers had called for an end to the bickering, some senators, like Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago, continued to bash congressmen about their alleged ill motives.

He also noted that INQUIRER columnist Solita Monsod had insinuated in her column yesterday that the House had a "plan A and a Plan B" so the congressmen could insert their pork back to the budget.

"There is no such thing. We would not have approved the budget that early (if there were such plans)," Nograles added.

Country on way out of fiscal crisis, says GMA

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday declared that the Philippines was well on its way to fiscal crisis deliverance and is poised for an investment renaissance.

The President's bullish stance stemmed from the approval of new tax measures, a robust stock market and a rejuvenated property and construction sector, and growing interest among foreign investors.

"We are well on the way to our destination. The fiscal problem is on the way to resolution. I assure you the future is bright; just keep the faith," Ms Arroyo said in a speech before aspiring politicians of the National Movement of Young Legislators in Pasay City yesterday.

The President called Congress' approval of her 2005 budget, which included steep cuts in pork barrel allocations, and the near approval of the value-added tax reforms "a healthy momentum in policy reforms."

The streamlined budget and new tax revenues are part of the President's strategy to have a balanced budget and an economic growth of at least 7 percent before her term ends in 2010.

The President has come a long way from her declaration of a fiscal crisis in August last year which jolted Congress into pushing for new revenues measures and the government bureaucracy to accept her cost-cutting measures.

"We are building a strong foundation for rapid investment-led growth. There is a resurgence in confidence," said the President, who cited giant watch maker Timex as among those that have remained upbeat on the country's prospects.

The President met with Timex president Jose Santana in Malacañang yesterday.

In his talk with Ms Arroyo, Santana revealed his firm's plan to pour in $13 million in new investments into its 26-year-old plant at the Mactan Export Processing Zone to make more watches for export directly to its markets in the region without passing through its US distribution network.

"Life is ticking not only for Timex but for the Philippines. Now, we will see Timex watches and its allied brands (Guess, Versace, Nautica and Timberland) delivered directly from Cebu to store shelves all over the world," the President said.

Aside from fiscal reforms and renewed foreign investor interest in the country, the President also noted the bright prospects of the domestic economy. "The bull run in the stock market is holding firm. We have a perceptive upcycle in property and construction. SMEs (small and medium enterprises), housing and tourism will be clear in our sights as the economy surges forward," the President said.

Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

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DENR to cut logging permits by 80% ahead of partial ban

THE DEPARTMENT of Environment and Natural Resources intends to cut down by 80 percent the number of government-issued logging permits and licensed timber processing plants in preparation for the reduction of overall logging in the country.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said it was not necessary or viable to have too many timber processing plants and holders of integrated forest management agreements (IFMAs) as these only served to promote illegal logging.

"We are ushering in a new era of a responsible timber industry. We will not hesitate to punish the violators of forestry laws and regulations," Defensor said in a statement.

"This is a step toward weeding out errant holders of industrial forest management agreements and encouraging the good ones," he said.

The move is in line with the department's new policy direction to limit timber activities to only two or three regions and placing the rest of the country under a complete log ban.

The DENR has identified the Caraga and Davao regions as potential areas for so-called "production forests" as these regions have the capability to meet the three-million cubic meters domestic demand for wood.

Defensor asked nongovernment organizations to help the agency in what amounts to a review of holders of legal logging permits and evaluation of the performance of industrial tree plantations.

"It would be best if the IFMAs that would be allowed to continue operating will likewise have the seal of approval of NGOs, especially those actively working in the host communities of these IFMAs," the secretary said.

Legal logging is allowed through the grant of various forms of logging permits: the timber license agreement (TLAs) issued during the Marcos dictatorship; the IFMA and the socialized integrated forest management agreement (SIFMA) that began replacing the TLAs during the Aquino administration, and other specialized forms like the private land timber permit, the forest land grazing management agreement (FLGMA) and the community-based forest management agreement (CBFMA).

Defensor recently created a five-person committee to review all existing IFMAs and also look into the FLGMAs, CBFMAs and SIFMAs.

The DENR announced yesterday that the number of TLAs had been reduced from the 408 issued in 1975 covering 9.6 million hectares to only 13 TLAs. *Blanche S. Rivera*

Lagman: Look who's talking from the gutter

By Philip C. Tubeza

ALBAY Rep. Edcel Lagman yesterday deplored Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles' response to his challenge to a debate on the proposed family planning bill, and suggested that the Catholic bishops' refusal to participate in debates on the issue showed the "paucity" of their arguments.

Arguelles on Friday rejected Lagman's challenge to a debate on the proposed Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005 (or House Bill 3773), describing it as a petty dare from a street thug.

"Look who's talking from the gutter," said Lagman, who insisted that a national debate on the proposed family planning law in Congress would help enlighten the public about the bill which the Church and its allies have vigorously opposed.

Lagman said Arguelles' response was "regrettable" because "paucity of arguments cannot be supplemented by crude name-calling."

"Bishop Arguelles gloats with self-proclaimed superiority when he also said that he cannot debate with me 'because we are not equals,'" he said.

"It takes two to debate and I would leave the good bishops to their own designs if they prefer to continue their self-serving soliloquy on the family planning bill," he added.

Lagman said he would only debate with the bishops and not with "any of their anointed subalterns" since the bishops were the ones responsible for the crafting and dissemination of "derogatory and misleading" pastoral letters against HB 3773.

"The purpose of a debate is not for the protagonists to try to convince one another but to clarify the issue, present the facts and argue the merits of their respective sides of the controversy before an an audience or the public," Lagman said.

Contrary to the bishops claim that a debate would be useless because arguments will be made from different perspectives, Lagman said that the debate "would not meander because the parameters and issues will be well-defined."

He said the debate would revolve around these issues: Whether HB 3773 legalizes abortion, whether it is arbitrary and unreasonable, whether it invades the privacy of families and destroys moral values, whether it is biased for modern family planning methods and whether or not mandatory "age-appropriate" reproductive health and sex education for the youth will encourage early "sexual initiation" and promiscuity.

P23-M Jolo rehabilitation to start

By Ed General and Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

JOLO, Sulu—The government will start rehabilitating the areas affected by the recent fighting here as the military braced for an intensified manhunt against Moro rebels and bandits following the order of President Macapagal-Arroyo, officials said.

Secretary Teresita Deles, presidential peace adviser, said the President had instructed her to accelerate the return of displaced residents to their homes and to reconstruct all damaged structures.

Local government officials have proposed a P23-million rehabilitation fund package.

Deles said local government units could do their part to speed up the rehabilitation, particularly by using their internal revenue allotments (IRA).

"There will be a system of incentives for local government units that will be doing their part in the reconstruction," she said.

While the thrust in Sulu is to repair the damage caused by the fighting, Malacañang said Ms Arroyo also wants the rebel forces and bandits finished off.

In a statement read by Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, the President said she had "directed our forces to continue operations in Sulu and to focus on apprehending and neutralizing the remaining leaders and members of the Abu Sayyaf, as well as the other groups that were reported [to] have alliances with them."

Secretary Jesus Dureza, chair of the Mindanao Economic Development Council (Medco), said the government would continue extending relief assistance to the evacuees, even to those that had returned to their homes.

"We will be happy to deliver relief goods once again to their places of origin and homes," he said.

Southern Command chief Lt. Gen. Alberto Braganza said that aside from hunting down the Abu Sayyaf and the Moro National Liberation Front faction led by Habier Malik, the military would also assist returning civilians.

At least 33,000 individuals have refused to return to their homes for fear that violence would erupt anew following news of Ms Arroyo's order of an intensified manhunt against Malik's group and the Abu Sayyaf.

During the more than one week of fighting, at least 100 people died, 34 of them soldiers.

Dureza for his part dared Malik to "do a Misuari and face the music."

"If Ustadz Habir Malik feels his group did nothing wrong, then he should come out and face the music; get a lawyer and do it through the bar of justice," Dureza said during a meeting of local leaders and members of the provincial disaster coordinating council here.

Dureza reminded them that Misuari, former leader of the MNLF, was "man enough" to face the rebellion charges filed against him in 2001.

He recalled he was the one tasked to bring Misuari back from Malaysia where the latter had sought refuge.

"(Misuari) returned and faced the charges against him," Dureza said.

Sources said Malik attacked Army outposts in Pamanao on Feb. 6 in retaliation for the Feb. 1 massacre of the family of a barangay councilor allegedly by soldiers.

As of March 4, a total of 9,363 families, or 51,051 persons, had fled their homes here for evacuation centers.

Local officials hoped that by next week, the number of evacuees would go down to 4,000 families or less.

Deles said the rehabilitation of the damaged infrastructure here could be expected to be completed by the end of the month.

While the meeting was meant to discuss rehabilitation efforts in Sulu, it also managed to open old wounds when some in the audience raised concerns over the fate of Misuari.

Misuari has been detained the past three years in a Philippine National Police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. *With Christine O. Avendaño*

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US court orders murder trial for former PBA star

LAS VEGAS – Despite conflicting testimony from two witnesses and a claim of self-defense, a judge here ordered former Philippine basketball star Rudy Distrito to stand trial for murder in the fatal stabbing of another man in November 2004.

"There are more unanswered questions than answered on what started this whole situation," said Las Vegas Justice Court Judge Ann E. Zimmerman on Thursday before binding Distrito over for trial.

Authorities say Distrito, a defensive star during 15 years in the Philippine Basketball Association, stabbed Juan Amaya to death during a scuffle several blocks east of the Las Vegas Strip.

Distrito's lawyer, Robert Langford, called the Nov. 24 slaying self-defense.

"The burden is on the state to prove that it was not self-defense and they have to prove that beyond a reasonable doubt," Langford said.

Distrito has been in jail here since surrendering to authorities in December. He was scheduled for arraignment March 21 in Clark County District Court.

Witness Richard Crooks testified Thursday that Distrito told him Amaya had a knife when the two men started wrestling on the ground.

But Crooks' friend, 17-year-old Sidney Messer, said Crooks told her that Distrito had told him Distrito had the knife.

Distrito's aggressive play for Ginebra San Miguel earned him the nickname "The Destroyer." He was suspended in 1995, his final season, for a flagrant foul against an opponent.

Manny Dumo, of the National Federation of Filipino Americans Association, compared Distrito to former NBA star Dennis Rodman, also known for his aggresive playing style. *AP*

GMA urged to honor hero-fireman

THE DEPARTMENT of Interior and Local Government has recommended to President Macapagal-Arroyo the conferment of presidential honors on a fireman who gave up his life beyond the call of duty.

FO3 Antonio Villanueva was off duty when fire struck a building on P. Burgos Avenue in Caridad, Cavite City, on Feb. 21. Instead of heading home, he joined his fellow firemen in putting out the fire.

Villanueva was on the fire ladder trying to hose down the flames on the second floor of the building when a backdraft caused the glass windows to explode in front of him. As glass shards hit him, he lost his balance and fell head-first on the concrete pavement.

"Such a citation will not only boost the morale of the Bureau of Fire Protection personnel, but also assuage the sorrow of FO3 Villanueva's wife and two minor children," said DILG Undersecretary for Peace and Order Marius Corpus.

Villanueva was laid to rest last week as the country observed the beginning of Fire Prevention Month.

Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes honored him at his funeral and posthumously conferred on him the Medalya ng Kagitingan.

"(Villanueva's) willingness to offer his life so that others may live... deserves praise and recognition," Reyes said. *Norman Bordadora*

Corrections

IN YESTERDAY'S story, "Roldan's wife accuses 10 cops of theft," on Page A23, it was misstated that Dennis Roldan's wife Ma. Teresa had said that during the commotion created by the arrest of her husband, "she noticed that their bracelets, watches, diamond earrings and cellular phones worth more than P610,000, and one Rolex watch worth half a million pesos, were gone." The value of the Rolex should have been included in the P610,000.

* * *

IN YESTERDAY'S story, "10,000 attend Church rally," on Page A2, the chair of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines' Episcopal Commission on Family Life is Archbishop Paciano B. Aniceto, not Mariano Aniceto.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to Gerry Lirio, city editor, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City; fax Nos. 897-4793/94; e-mail addresses:glirio@inquirer.com.ph and daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Raul Palabrica, readers' advocate, the same address and fax numbers as those of the city editor, and e-mail address:rpalabrica@inquirer.com.ph.

PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF ENDOCRINOLOGY AND METABOLISM, INC.
A Specialty Society of the Philippine Medical Association (PMA) • A Component Society of the Philippine College of Physicians (PCP) • A Member of the International Society of Endocrinology (ISE)

2005 ANNUAL CONVENTION
"Clinical Guidelines in Endocrinology"

March 12, 2005 • Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City

MESSAGES

On behalf of the Officers and Members of the Board of Regents of the Philippine Society of Physicians, I take pleasure in welcoming all delegates, guests and participants to the 2005 Annual Convention of Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Inc. on March 12, 2005 at Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Makati City.

We are sure that the organizing committee has done its best to come up with an impressive and scientifically rewarding program intended to advance our knowledge and skills in endocrinology. Congratulations for a job well done. We express our hope for a scientifically rewarding affair.

Continued best wishes and more power.

ADRIAN C. PEÑA, MD, FPCP
President, Philippine College of Physicians

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the 2005 PSEM Annual Convention. We will be discussing *CLINICAL GUIDELINES IN ENDOCRINOLOGY*. The invited plenary speakers and symposium speakers will all provide us with new insights in different aspects of endocrinology. They also will provide us with a framework for which we could apply these guidelines to our practices. We have interesting workshops for which I am sure would all benefit from. Researches from fellows in training would also be presented.

This year, we also salute the Filipino endocrinologist who have excelled and made an impact in the field of endocrinology by way of the 1st Augusto D. Litonjua Lecture of Distinction.

This year also, we invite you to come to the 2005 ASEAN Federation of Endocrine Societies at the PICC on December 7- 10, 2005. Mark your calendars and be there for this very important event.

Have a fruitful convention!

Roberto C. Mirasol
ROBERTO C. MIRASOL, MD
President, PSEM

Warm greeting to all our colleagues and friends!! This year, the scientific committee takes pride in inviting you all to the 2005 annual convention of the Philippine Society of Endocrinology and Metabolism. This year's unique program will focus on different clinical guidelines of carefully selected topics frequently encountered in the practice of endocrinology. Excellent speakers, both foreign and local, will share with everyone important informations in the plenary and different symposia that will certainly guide and help you in your daily practice while the workshops will surely increase your skills in the interpretations of different diagnostics used in clinical endocrinology. Our young and promising scientists and investigators will likewise have an opportunity to showcase different innovative ideas that may contribute in the advancement of science. This gathering certainly promises to be not only a venue for scientific interaction and learning but will indeed be an appropriate time to socialize and meet new friends.

ROSA ALLYN G. SY, MD, FPCP, FPSEM
Vice-President, PSEM
& Chair, Scientific Committee

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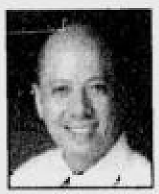

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PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

March 11 (Friday)		
5:30 p.m.	1st Augusto D. Litonjua, MD Lecture of Distinction	
March 12 (Saturday)		
7:00	**Registration**	
7:00 - 8:15	**BREAKFAST SYMPOSIUM**	Pfizer Philippines
8:15 - 8:30	**Opening Ceremonies**	
Plenary Lecture I		
Chair: *Dr. Josephine Carlos-Raboca*		
8:30 - 9:15	New Trends in the Diagnosis and Management of Osteoporosis *- Dr. Pauline Camacho - Almeda*	
9:15 - 10:00	**Coffee Break / Exhibits**	
Plenary Lecture 2		
Chair: *Dr. Rosa Allyn G. Sy*		
10:00 - 10:45	Early Insulinization in Type 2 DM - *Dr. Augusto D. Litonjua*	
Symposium I		
Chair: *Dr. Laura Trajano-Acampado*		
10:45 - 11:15	Clinical Guidelines Development: Practical Application in Endocrinology *- Dr. Cecilia A. Jimeno*	
11:15 - 11:45	Clinical Guidelines in the Management of Thyroid Malignancy *- Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco*	
11:45 - 12:15	Clinical Guidelines in the Management of Acromegaly *- Dr. Lina Lantion-Ang*	
12:15 - 12:30	**Open Forum**	
12:30 - 2:00	**LUNCH SYMPOSIUM**	Merck, Inc. / Sanofi - Aventis Schering Plough / Therapharma
Symposium 2		
2:00 - 3:15	**RESEARCH PRESENTATION** (simultaneous sessions) **Research Session 1** **PSEM Research Contest 2005** Chair: *Dr. Elizabeth Paz-Pacheco* Co-chair: *Dr. Gabriel V. Jasul, Jr.* **Research Session 2** **PSEM Oral Presentation** (Completed Research Paper Grants 2004 - 4 completed papers) Chair: *Dr. Leilani Mercado-Asis* Co-chair: *Dr. Laura Trajano-Acampado*	
3:15 - 4:15	**WORKSHOP:** Diagnostic Imaging in Bone and Thyroid Diseases (simultaneous sessions)	
	Session 1 Thyroid Scanning - *Dr. Federico B. Cruz* Chair: *Dr. Ma. Luz Vicenta Guanzon*	
	Session 2 Thyroid Ultrasound - *Dr. Sjoberg A. Kho* Chair: *Dr. Patricia B. Gatbonton*	
	Session 3 Bone Densitometry - *Dr. Tito P. Torralba, Dr. Leilani Mercado-Asis, Dr. Lyndon Q. Llamado* Chair: *Dr. Roberto C. Mirasol*	
4:15 - 4:30	**Coffee Break**	
Symposium 3		
Chair: *Dr. Cynthia H. Manabat*		
4:30 - 5:00	Clinical Guidelines on Nutriceuticals and Dietary Supplement *- Dr. Gabriel V. Jasul, Jr.*	
5:00 - 5:30	Clinical Guidelines in the Management of Dyslipidemia *- Dr. Ruby T. Go*	
5:30 - 5:45	**Open forum**	
5:45	**Business Meeting / Closing Ceremonies**	

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AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL MANILA

Many parents of the International School Manila community read with dismay the comment by former Justice Isagani Cruz in Sunday's *Inquirer* on the ISAE versus ISM case, in which the ISAE President and ISM teacher, Raquel David Ching, portrayed herself and her colleagues as "victims"–of a dilatory judicial system and of a manipulative and unscrupulous employer, in the form of International School, which has ignored the mandates of the Supreme Court and is doing what it can to undermine the rights of its down-trodden Filipino workers.

On Friday, and also in the *Inquirer*, columnist Rina Jimenez-David was influenced by the ISAE to continue in much the same vein with a mish-mash of half truths and false assertions.

Sadly, Justice Cruz and Ms. Jimenez-David have been misinformed of the facts of the case. This is not the first time that ISAE has been able to convince people of their supposed "plight." If ISAE is so confident of the strength of their cause, one wonders why they always choose to tell only part of the story.

When Justice Kapunan handed down his "landmark" decision in June 2000, there was much confusion about what this meant in terms of its implementation. However, the thrust of the judgment was clear: that "point of hire" could not be used as a basis for determining salary. In other words, those hired locally should no longer receive less in salary than those hired from abroad.

This discrepancy in salary scales was never a "racist" policy, despite the desire of Ms. Ching and Ms. Jimenez-David to cast it in such light. ISM has always hired a large number of "local" expatriates–from the US, the UK, Australia, New Zealand and the like–who happened to be living in the Philippines.

They too, despite the color of their skins and their ethnic origins, received the same salaries as their Filipino colleagues–and less than their counterparts on the faculty who were hired at recruitment fairs abroad. Nor was this a policy invented by ISM. It obtains still in many other schools in the Far East, including the Philippines, as well as in almost every international-style school in Latin America and Africa.

The rationale behind this pay policy is that it responds to market forces. The salary benchmark for teachers in the US is far higher than it is here, and, in order to attract high quality faculty from abroad to work in the Philippines, we are obliged to offer a salary that is attractive within an international setting and that allows us to compete with other schools who are seeking to employ the same candidates. ISM has no control over the salaries and benefits being provided by other international schools, but must seek to match them where it can. Even with a base starting salary of US$26,000, ISM is frequently outbid by other schools in its quest to hire the best teachers at recruiting fairs in the US. If ISM advertises a teaching post here with a starting salary of US$26,000, then it is deluged by the response.

The logic behind the two tier salary structure, then, is that there is a market for teachers in the international arena and one for teachers here in the Philippines–and in place of the Philippines one might insert any one of 50 countries where this practice is still commonplace. (It is interesting, in this context, to note that the Supreme Court upheld the government policy of allowing Filipino seamen to receive lower salaries than their foreign counterparts in order to make Filipino seamen competitive in the world market.)

In June 2000, after the Supreme Court verdict, the Board of Trustees had various legal alternatives to delay–perhaps indefinitely–the implementation of equal salaries but decided to proceed immediately with a new salary scale in which all teacher employees were treated the same, in compliance with the Kapunan decision. It did so because it felt that this was the right thing to do, and also because it hoped, naively as it turns out, that, by being gracious and generous, it would put to an end this long-running battle that had soured relationships between local hire teachers and the Administration for close on 20 years.

For almost five years now, despite the insinuations in the columns of Justice Cruz and Jimenez-David, ISM has followed the precept of the Kapunan decision and paid all members of faculty according to one salary scale.

However, no sooner did the teachers get their money than the ISAE started a fresh suit, this time for recalibration of pensions, adjustments to commutative benefits and back pay. Their claim amounts to some US$18 million; a sum that would bring the school to the bankruptcy court rather than the Supreme Court. This is what Ms. Ching's "victims" are fighting for.

The current difference between ISM and ISAE regards the interpretation of the dispositive portion of the Kapunan decision. ISM believes that the dispositive portion of the decision did not provide for a retroactive adjustment to salaries. Such a huge financial impact to ISM should have been clearly signaled in the decision in a form that was unequivocal.

This is especially so because the Kapunan decision was the first of its kind–not only in the Philippines but in the world. Our lawyers have searched without success for any legal decision in any court anywhere that cited the treaties that Justice Kapunan used to justify salary parity. The introduction of new law must, as a matter of legal precedent, be prospective in its impact, unless there are specific and clearly stated grounds for it to be retrospective.

These are major issues: for ISM, for Philippine jurisprudence, and, as well, for the future competitiveness of the country as a location for overseas investment. The various Chambers of Commerce here are deeply concerned about the long term impact of this decision. For the school to seek clarification–and defense–through the legal submissions of its counsel is neither manipulative nor obstructive. For its Trustees to do any other would be reckless and irresponsible.

Let us now examine Ms. Ching's claim to the status of "victim." Even before the impact of Justice Kapunan's ruling, Ms. Ching earned about a million pesos a year –with all her taxes paid by the school. Now, Ms. Ching takes home US$36,600 each year (over P2 million)–and the school still bears her entire 32% income tax burden. Ms. Vergel, another ISM teacher, who complained in Jimenez-David's article of being only allowed to sit, metaphorically, at the back of the "pay bus" actually takes home US$33,200–tax paid–and is, in fact, safely ensconced in business class! How many teachers in this country earn this kind of net salary? How many employees anywhere in this country earn a sum even close to this amount?

The answer to both questions is none. A public school teacher in the Philippines earns between P10,000.00 per month at entry level and P14,000.00 per month for a teacher with 30 years' experience and a Master's degree. Neither of the teachers quoted even has a Master's degree. Without counting benefits, without mentioning the fully funded foreign trips she has enjoyed, including a six month sabbatical in the United States on full salary, Ms. Ching earns about 17 times what a public school teacher earns and five times what a private school teacher earns–and the public school and private school teachers have to pay taxes on what they earn!

The fact is that International School Manila is the best paying employer in the country–for its classified staff as well as for its teaching staff. It is an employer that treats all people working within its walls–whatever their nationality–with dignity and respect.

But the present salaries and the accompanying generous benefits aren't enough for the "victims" Ms. Ching claims to represent. So what if the drive to get even more money for themselves results in bankruptcy for the top school in this country–a school celebrating its 85th Anniversary this year? So what if that bankruptcy means unemployment for the 400+ employees–including the cleaners, the guards and the cafeteria workers–who depend on ISM for their living? Ms. Ching and her fellow "victims" will be fine, thanks very much.

The Kapunan decision has already had a dramatic impact on ISM's hiring strategies and its flexibility to respond to recruitment needs. ISM has to consider always that when increasing an offer to teachers abroad, it must make a corresponding adjustment to the salaries of the 50 ISAE members back home. Moreover, because of the structure of the salary scale, which rises by annual increments, the ISAE teachers are now the best paid members of faculty. The average stay of foreign hire teachers is five years, capping their salaries at step 5 on the salary scale. Local hire teachers stay until retirement and can reach step 25 on the scale. Foreign hire teachers are on short term contracts and are moved on if their work is not truly excellent; local hires are tenured, and it is practically impossible to remove even those whose performance is mediocre. ISAE members don't have to compete in job fairs abroad in order to obtain posts; nor do they face the trauma of relocation from country to country every so often.

For the Court to impose a fresh burden on ISM, a burden that would likely lead to the demise of the institution, simply to enrich even further the wealthiest employees in this country, would be unjust and unreasonable.

Presumably acting on the advice of its lawyers, ISAE is currently waging a media storm, with the help–paid or unpaid–of its contacts and connections, in an endeavor to pressurize the Supreme Court into taking their side. ISM is confident that, in the end, justice will prevail, and the Supreme Court will render a decision that is fair and honorable.

Sincerely,

ARTHUR V. MEDEL
PRESIDENT
ISM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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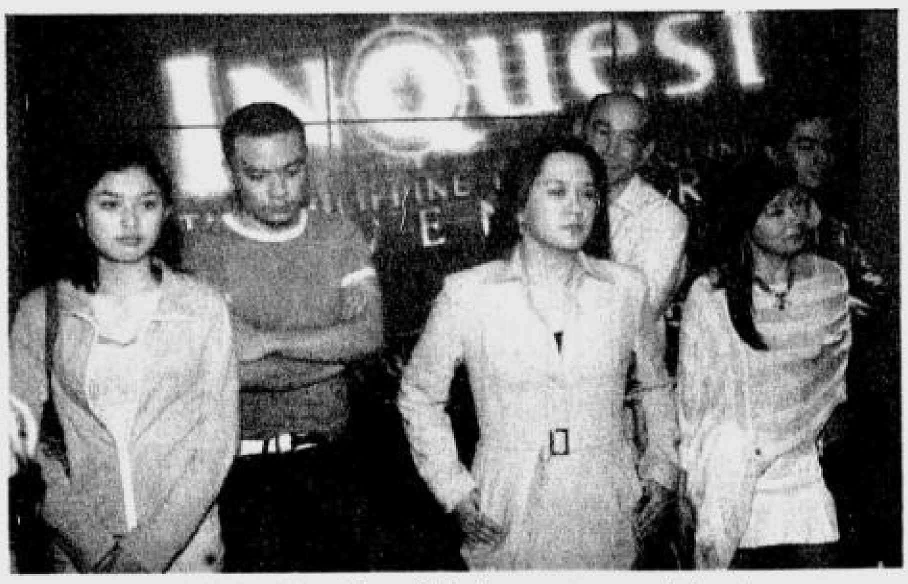

MURDER Mystery: Who's guilty, who's not? The six suspects are caught in various poses.
JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

PDI mystery looking for sleuths

By Racquel Gomez

INQUIRER readers, you are needed at the crime scene. There's been a murder and there are six suspects.

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For eight weeks, starting today *(See ad on Entertainment Page A3-2)*, follow the INQuest Adventure in this paper and guess the answer to the questions found at the end of the chapter installments.

Piece together the shocking truth behind the murder of 28-year-old fictional character Jerson Morales by collecting clues found in the various sections of the INQUIRER, www.inquestor.com, and INQTV which is shown Thursdays, 10:30 p.m. on ABC5.

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Prizes worth P500,000 will be given away tax-free.

At the launch of the INQuest Adventure Mystery at Absinth Bar in Greenbelt Makati on Feb. 24, six fictional murder suspects were introduced to the public. Luis Limlingan, 21, from Ateneo de Manila University, is the good-looking party animal and car racer "Barton." Erissa Gallardo, 21, who works at Amergis Solutions Company, is social event organizer "Vivienne." Anna Margarita Africa, 39, employee of Equitable-PCI Bank, is the socialite "Cynthia." Christian Ardiante, 24-year-old radio announcer is student-bartender "Gian." Larry Gallardo, 47-year-old businessman, is the reserved and righteous father "Pipo." And Karyn Young, 18, is the overly sensitive "Jeng."

Who among them killed Jerson Morales?

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, March 6, 2005
4th Sunday of Lent

1st Reading: 1st Samuel 16:1,6-7,10-13

David's anointing

In those days Yahweh asked Samuel, "How long will you be grieving over Saul whom I have rejected as king of Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way to Jesse the Bethlehemite for I have chosen my king from among his sons."

As they came, Samuel looked at Eliab the older and thought, "This must be Yahweh's anointed." But Yahweh told Samuel, "Do not judge by his looks or his stature for I have rejected him. Yahweh does not judge as man judges; humans see with the eyes; Yahweh sees the heart."

Jesse presented seven of his sons to Samuel who said, "Yahweh has chosen none of them. But are all your sons here?" Jesse replied, "There is still the youngest, tending the flock just now." Samuel said to him, "Send for him and bring him to me; we shall not sit down to eat until he arrives." So Jesse sent for his youngest son and brought him to Samuel. He was a handsome lad with ruddy complexion and beautiful eyes. And Yahweh spoke, "Go, anoint him for he is the one." Samuel then took the horn of oil and anointed him in his brothers' presence. From that day onwards, Yahweh's Spirit took hold of David.

2nd Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Christ will shine on you

Brothers and sisters, you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Behave as children of light; the fruits of light are kindness, justice and truth in every form.

You yourselves search out what pleases the Lord, and take no part in works of darkness that are of no benefit; expose them instead. Indeed it is a shame even to speak of what those people do in secret, but as soon as it is exposed to the light, everything becomes clear. And what has become clear becomes light. Therefore it is said: "Awake, you who sleep, arise from the dead that the light of Christ may shine on you."

Gospel: John 9:1-41 or 1,6-9,13-17,34-38

I was blind and now I can see

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man who had been blind from birth. He made paste with spittle and clay and rubbed it on the eyes of the blind man. Then he said, "Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam." (This name means sent.) So he went and washed and came back able to see.

His neighbors and all the people who used to see him begging, wondered. They said, "Isn't this the beggar who used to sit here?" Some said, "It's the one." Others said, "No, but he looks like him." But the man himself said, "I am the one."

The people brought the man who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made mud paste and opened his eyes. The Pharisees asked him again, "How did you recover your sight?" And he said, "He put paste on my eyes, and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he works on the sabbath"; but others wondered, "How can a sinner perform such miraculous signs?" They were divided and they questioned the blind man again, "What do you think of this man who opened your eyes?" And he answered, "He is a prophet."

They answered him, "You were born a sinner and now you teach us!" And they expelled him.

Jesus heard that they had expelled him. He found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "Who is he, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said, "You have seen him and he is speaking to you. He said, "Lord, I believe"; and he worshiped him.

Commentary

Yahweh sees with the heart. And Yahweh's spirit takes over a person (like David) from the moment he is anointed. The blind man is anointed with Jesus' spit and when he washes in the pool, in obedience to Jesus' word, the Spirit begins to take him over. With each encounter, each confrontation he grows stronger and aligns himself more and more with the person of Jesus, until he is thrown out from the temple. Jesus finds him and reveals himself to him as the Son of Man, persecuted and rejected (as the blind man was because he stood up for Jesus). Lord, you see into our hearts—let your Spirit deepen in us and make us stand up for you and what you speak as the truth, the way and the life for all peoples. And may we know you as the Son of Man, crucified, risen from the dead and the Light, the judge of the world.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CRIMINAL PROCEDURE)/POLITICAL LAW (CONSTITUTIONAL LAW)—Right of accused to speedy trial and speedy disposition of the case against him—The right of the accused to a speedy trial and to a speedy disposition of the case against him was designed to prevent the oppression of the citizen by holding criminal prosecution suspended over him for an indefinite time, and to prevent delays in the administration of justice by mandating the courts to proceed with reasonable dispatch in the trial of criminal cases. Such right to a speedy trial and a speedy disposition of a case is violated only when the proceeding is attended by vexatious, capricious and oppressive delays. The inquiry as to whether or not an accused has been denied such right is not susceptible by precise qualification. The concept of a speedy disposition is a relative term and must necessarily be a flexible concept. While justice is administered with dispatch, the essential ingredient is orderly, expeditious and not mere speed. It cannot be definitely said how long is too long in a system where justice is supposed to be swift, but deliberate. It is consistent with delays and depends upon circumstances. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Callejo, Sr., Second Division, Corpuz vs Sandiganbayan, G. R. No. 162214, November 11, 2004] By R. B. VERA

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Drilon on oil hikes: Gov't must buy back Petron

From page A1

were new oil players Seaoil Petroleum, Flying V, Eastern Petroleum and Unioil Petroleum Phil.

Oil refiners Petron and Pilipinas Shell and the big finished-product importers Caltex Phil. and Total Phil. have yet to announce their expected price adjustments.

Drilon, who spoke at a Sulo Hotel forum, argued that with the government having majority ownership of the country's largest oil firm, it would be in a better position to temper escalating oil prices.

Gov't as player in oil industry

"The government must be a player in the oil industry by acquiring one-third of the market through Petron and therefore set the pace in the market and give our consumers a choice whether they go to Petron or the other two big players and other small players in the market," he said.

Energy Secretary Vincent Perez pointed out, however, that no amount of government control of Petron would stop the rise in domestic pump prices as these are the product of international price surges.

"The present 40-percent government ownership of Petron is an appropriate level of ownership. Any change in government ownership in Petron will not change the movement of world oil prices," said Perez.

He noted how oil companies that were wholly government-owned in other countries, such as Petronas in Malaysia and Pertamina in Indonesia, had been unable to control world oil prices.

"Just last week, both companies decided that they, too, needed to raise fuel prices," Perez said.

Perez said that it was worth noting that almost every time there were hikes in local pump price hikes, Petron was almost always the last to implement such price adjustments.

Full divestment

In August 2004, when the idea of "re-nationalizing" Petron was first bruited about, the Independent Philippine Petroleum Companies Association (Ippca), the umbrella organization of new oil players, suggested that the government would do better to do the reverse, that is, fully divest its stake in Petron and have the firm fully privatized.

Ippca chair Fernando Martinez said then that the government, with its stake in the country's biggest firm, could not be a player in a supposedly market-driven oil industry.

He pointed out that even developed economies like the United States did not own oil firms.

Palace appeal

As concerned sectors warned that the oil companies could use skyrocketing international oil prices to justify indiscriminate domestic price adjustments, Malacañang appealed to the good sense of the oil companies that are virtually allowed by law to set the prices of petroleum products in the country.

"The government appeals to oil firms to adjust only when absolutely necessary," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement released yesterday.

The Palace also ordered the Department of Energy to closely monitor petroleum pump prices.

President Macapagal-Arroyo last week formed a committee to review the Oil Deregulation Law which many have blamed for the government's inability to check the rise in domestic oil prices.

But Drilon said the review could take a long time.

Moderate the increase

The Senate President said that with control of Petron, one of the three big players in the domestic oil industry, the government can "moderate the increases" and give consumers the alternative of lower pump prices against those set by the two other oil giants, Shell and Caltex.

"We are not saying there should be no profits but we cannot totally leave to market forces the pricing of oil because of its social implications," said Drilon.

He stressed that he was not in favor of a return to the regulated oil price regime as that would mean government would be providing subsidies.

"I am not for a subsidy. I am saying that let us have a reasonable adjustment in the prices and make sure this is not being abused and let's give the consumers a choice. If Petron will price it and (still) make money out of it, that should put some regulation in the market," he said.

The senator, who said it had been a mistake to sell the then state-owned Petron during the Ramos administration, proposed that government use the state-run pension funds to acquire 11 percent of Petron to obtain a 51-percent majority.

The government, through the Philippine National Oil Co., still owns 40 percent of Petron. The Saudi-based Aramco holds 40 percent and the remaining 20 percent is owned by about 2,000 individual and institutional investors.

All that was needed was an administrative order from the President for the reacquisition of Petron to proceed, the senator said.

GSIS, SSS

He said Petron would not be a bad investment at all for the Social Security System and the Government Service Insurance System, as it is a blue-chip company.

The move would have an immediate social impact as the government would have full control over the pricing of oil products, he said.

"The error of the Oil Deregulation Law is that it was premised on a free market and open competition among the oil players. We know that there is no such thing," said Drilon.

Cartel

He maintained that the Aramco-run Petron, the Netherlands-based Shell and United States-based Caltex are a cartel that have a monopoly of the domestic oil industry.

"They can deny this until they turn blue but, no, they cannot convince anyone that there is no cartel," Drilon said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. called on the government to modify the composition of the special team from the DOE tasked to review the Oil Deregulation Law by including a representative from the consumer sector.

"You have regulators, organized transport groups, oil dealers, you even have academicians in the panel but you do not have consumers, the people who pay for high oil prices out of their own pockets," Pimentel said.

Soaring prices

As of March 3, the average price of the regional benchmark Dubai crude surged to a high $43.26 a barrel, up by almost $4 from the February average of $39.87 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products also soared to a March average of $57.65 a barrel, more than $3 higher than the $54.27-a-barrel average posted last month.

MOPS-based diesel skyrocketed to a March average of $65.51 a barrel, jumping by almost $10 from last month's average of $55.63 a barrel.

Warning

Energy Undersecretary Peter Anthony Abaya the other day warned the public, and even the domestic oil firms, to steel themselves for a further surge in world oil prices. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Journalists . . .

From page A1

She said granting the AFP the power to determine what the media could cover would soon lead to the banning of journalists from conflict areas, thus depriving Filipinos in-depth and multi-sided coverage of tensions in a multi-ethnic society.

She added: "It is not for the AFP or any other government agency to curtail a [constitutional] right on the basis of its oftentimes flawed logic."

Code of ethics enough

The NUJP believes that the various media codes of ethics, properly disseminated to reporters and editors, anchors and commentators, suffice to ensure both the safety of troops in the field and respect for basic constitutional rights.

But the Philippine National Police would be just as pleased if media groups were barred from airing or giving space to statements of "known terrorists."

Sr. Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil, PNP spokesperson, said the PNP was in support of Adan's proposal that giving terrorists media space be considered a crime.

Even Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commanding general of the 8th Infantry Division based in Camp Lukban, Catbalogan, Samar, said he favored the idea.

The controversial Palparan, whom human rights advocates have accused of rights violations and abuses, said enemies of the state, including members of the communist New People's Army, had "no rights" to be interviewed by the media.

Accomplice

In an interview with the Inquirer, Adan said "terrorist spokesmen" were "hiding behind" press freedom.

He said it was a wonder why media persons "allow these persons to say what they want to say."

"We don't want to attribute motives why they allow it," he said, adding in Taglish:

"What we are saying is that it won't do anyone any good. Even the ordinary man in the street, his mind is poisoned by these terrorist spokesmen."

Asked if he thought it was a crime for a reporter or media organization to allow a known terrorist to air his side, Adan said: "To advocate violence, [yes]. In fact, it is a crime to incite [to] rebellion or sedition.

"What we are saying here is that the media become an accomplice. What will determine that is the court.

"The person is already saying, 'Let us use violence,' and then he'll even be given a microphone to tell this to the whole country? It's just common sense [to consider the media as an accomplice]."

Propaganda

Bataoil said media groups should "consider the welfare of the people and the government" in pursuing stories.

He advised against airing what he called "the pronouncements and propaganda of terror groups."

Bataoil was vague about which groups and personalities should be considered terrorists, but said the PNP had persons and groups listed in its order of battle.

According to Bataoil, there were proper fora where the PNP could lodge its complaints against a media group that had supposedly gone too far.

"You have your own set of ethics," he told the Inquirer in a phone interview. "If you don't follow it, we can always complain against you."

He mentioned the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas as a possible venue for redress.

Bataoil did not say what kind of penalty should be leveled at media groups that seek out heads or spokespersons of supposed terrorist groups.

"But we generally support the idea of not giving [space to or] interviewing terrorists," he said.

The United States has branded both the Abu Sayyaf and the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the NPA, as terrorist organizations.

The military often refers to the CPP-NPA as a group that "commits terroristic acts."

Sacred concept

Media groups in the provinces also expressed opposition to Adan's proposal.

Noreen Villalba, president of the Quezon Tri-Media Group, said press freedom was a sacred concept for all media professionals.

However, she suggested that radio, TV and print media also limit the exposure of the so-called "terrorist groups."

"*Lumalaki ang ulo nila* (The publicity is going to their heads). They believe they are supported by the masses," said Villalba, managing editor of Ang Diaryo Natin and reporter of dwTI-AM/Channel 8.

But she said the military should always be available for an interview.

"Most of the time, it is the other side who is willing to be interviewed, while the military is playing hard to get. It's really ironic," she said.

For NUJP-Quezon chair Johnny Glorioso, Adan's proposal would "only result in unbalanced news."

"They all deserve to be heard, unless the AFP has abandoned its advocacy of the peace process," he said.

Virtual martial law

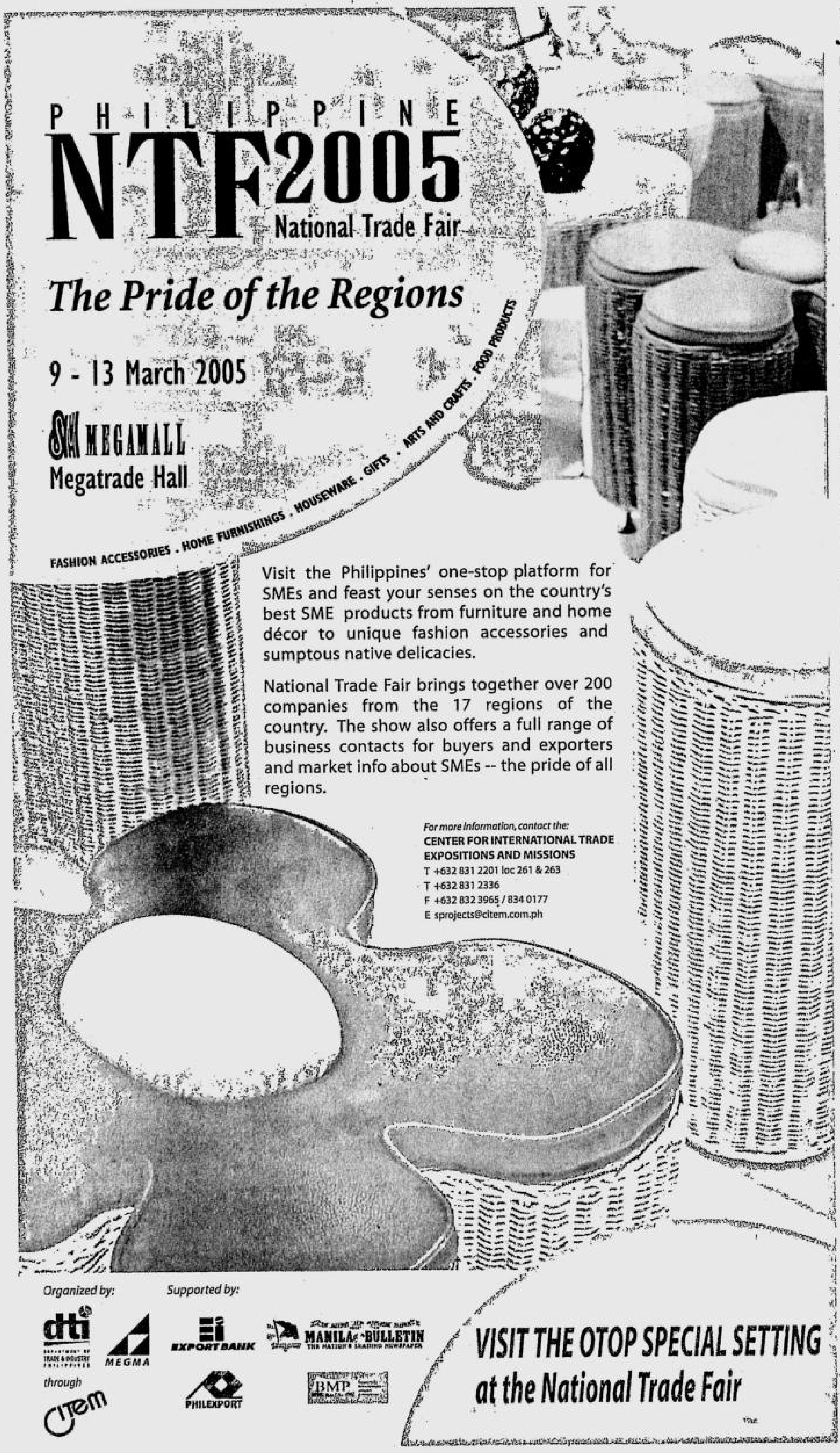
Alex Lagunzad, regional secretary general of the militant human rights group Katungod-Eastern Visayas, said the military stance was intended to stifle the media.

"This [proposal] is virtual martial law because only one side will be allowed to be heard by the people," he said. "Stifling the members of the media to inform the people of the truth is contrary to the principles of a democratic society like ours."

Lagunzad pointed out that the Army had also been using the media to propagate its own agenda through programs aired in some radio stations in Eastern Visayas.

"Truth and freedom of expression should not be undermined," he said.

As in many areas in the country where there is an active insurgency, media groups in Eastern Visayas have been interviewing top officials of the NPA-National Democratic Front, like Fr. Rudy Salas, its regional spokesperson. *With a report from Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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Freed Italian hostage shot by US forces

ROME—Italy on Saturday prepared to welcome back freed Italian hostage Giuliana Sgrena but the joy at her release was marred by the death of a secret agent killed when US troops opened fire on the convoy taking her to safety.

Sgrena, accompanied by several Italian secret service agents as well as her companion, Pier Scolari, who came to fetch her in Baghdad on Friday night, were expected to arrive at Rome's Ciampino airport at 10:30 a.m.

The 56-year-old journalist, who was held hostage for a month, was hit in the shoulder when US troops at a checkpoint opened fire on the convoy taking her to Baghdad airport.

Italian secret service agent, Nicola Capilari, 51, was killed when he threw himself in front of her to protect her from the bullets. A second agent traveling with the two was still in serious condition Saturday.

The US military confirmed the incident, but said the Italian convoy, speeding toward a checkpoint manned by US forces near Baghdad airport, ignored signals to slow down and stop.

The United States has promised a rapid enquiry into what happened.

Sgrena was treated in a US military hospital and will need another operation in Italy, press reports said.

US President George W. Bush called Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi from the US presidential jet Air Force One late Friday "to express his regret about the incident that occurred earlier today," White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said in Washington.

"The president assured Prime Minister Berlusconi that the incident will be fully investigated," McClellan said, adding that the two spoke for about five minutes.

SGRENA pleading for life in Feb. 16 video. AP

Sgrena "was fired upon by coalition forces. Apparently there was the loss of one life, an Italian citizen, and she was also injured in the incident," McClellan said.

"We regret the loss of life, the Italian citizen who lost his life, and obviously she is in our thoughts and prayers as well."

Berlusconi, a staunch ally of Bush, told a press conference in Rome late Friday there were "disquieting questions" that needed to be answered about the incident.

"Several shots hit the car. One man was mortally wounded by a bullet. We are petrified and dumbfounded by this fatality."

Berlusconi said an agent had thrown his body in front of Sgrena to protect her from the shots but was fatally wounded.

"It is a pity. This was a joyful moment which made all our fellow citizens happy, which has been transformed into profound pain by the death of a person who behaved so bravely." AFP

THIS time for love—Prince Charles smelling a rose given to him in Canberra March 5. REUTERS

9 objections filed vs Charles' plan to remarry

LONDON—Nine formal objections have been filed against Prince Charles' plans to marry his longtime companion Camilla Parker Bowles, the British Broadcasting Corp. reported Friday.

The deadline for legal objections to the wedding, scheduled for April 8, was 5 p.m. The objections were filed at local registry offices in Chippenham and Cirencester, where the couple have homes.

The BBC did not specify what points the objections raised or who filed them. Legal debate over the wedding has centered on the question of whether members of the royal family are permitted under British law to marry in civil ceremonies, as Charles and Parker Bowles plan to do.

The Church of England frowns on remarriages by people who are divorced, as both Charles and Parker Bowles are. They plan a civil wedding at the town hall in Windsor, followed by a religious blessing of their union.

The office of Britain's registrar general will evaluate the objections, known as caveats, to decide whether they are valid, likely by next week, the BBC said. Objectors can appeal to a judge if the registrar general dismisses their complaints.

Officials cannot issue Charles and Parker Bowles a marriage certificate until all the objections have been dealt with, the BBC said.

The wedding has hit several other snags since it was announced.

Charles and Parker Bowles—whom some dislike because she was involved with the prince while he was married to Princess Diana—had intended to marry at Windsor Castle. AP

Asean uneasy over pace of Burma reforms

SINGAPORE—Asean is worried about the pace of democratic reforms in Burma (also known as Myanmar) and its impact on ties with dialogue partners ahead of Rangoon's takeover as chair of the group next year, Singapore's foreign minister said.

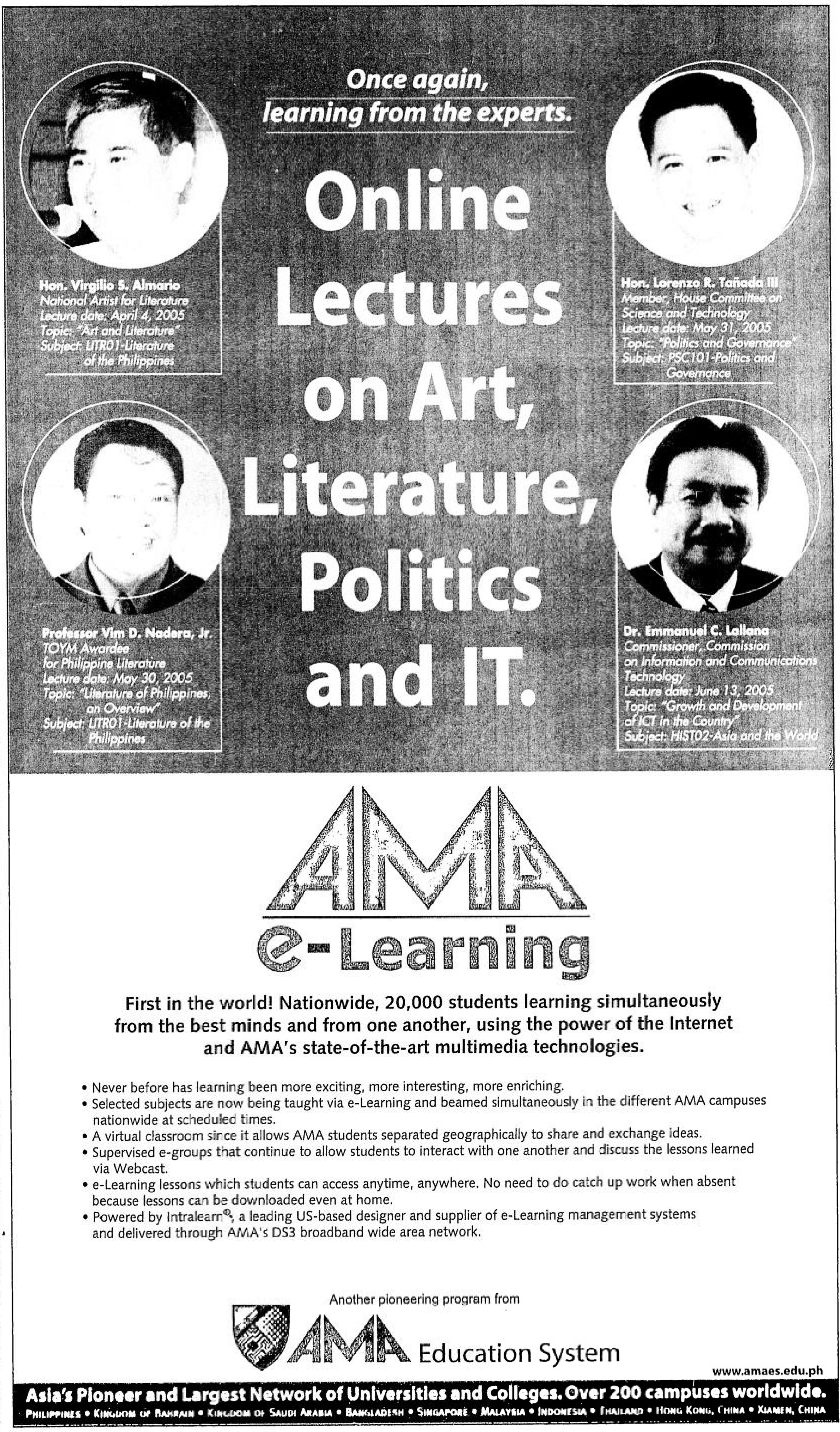
Foreign Minister George Yeo said unless Burma authorities handled the situation carefully, the credibility of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations would be in jeopardy.

Transcripts of Yeo's remarks during a debate in parliament were released to the media late Friday.

Yeo was asked about the impact of Burma's chairmanship of Asean next year, which has sparked a US warning it would boycott a series of meetings in Rangoon unless the army-ruled state improves its human rights record.

The European Union has also been uneasy about Burma's leadership of the group. Chairmanship of Asean is rotated annually among the bloc's 10 members in alphabetical order.

"We have a problem. Although we have not formally discussed this in Asean, I know that many of the foreign ministers in Asean worry about it," Yeo said. AFP



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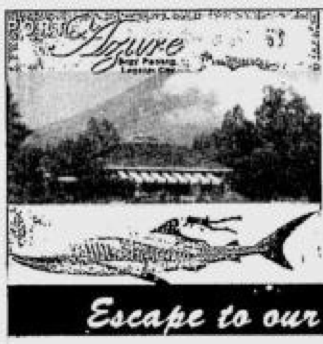

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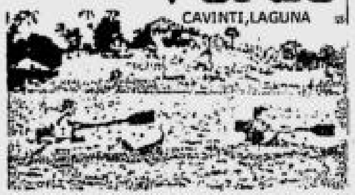

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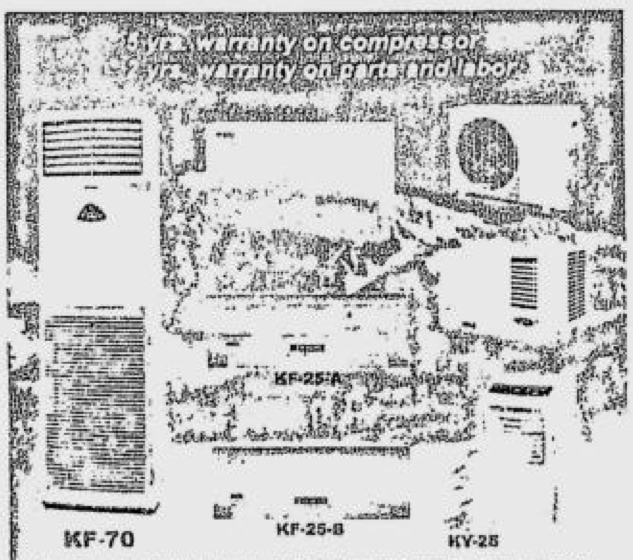

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Assad to announce Lebanon pullback; US wants more

BEIRUT—Syria will announce on Saturday a partial pullout of troops from Lebanon, Lebanese sources said, but US President George W. Bush warned nothing short of a full withdrawal would satisfy Washington.

"When we say withdraw we mean complete withdrawal—no half-hearted measures," Bush told an audience in New Jersey on Friday. "Syrian troops, Syrian intelligence services must get out of Lebanon now."

Bush called in an interview published earlier for all Syrian forces to be out by May to clear the way for fair elections.

In a speech to Syria's parliament, President Bashar al-Assad is expected to announce the pullout of some troops completely from Lebanon and the redeployment of the rest close to the border, Lebanese political sources said on Friday.

Abdel Halim Mrad, defense minister in the Syrian-backed Lebanese government which resigned on Monday, said the move would adhere to the Taif Accord which ended Lebanon's 1975-90 civil war.

"Syria will redeploy its forces in line with Taif," he said.

The agreement stipulates Syrian forces be redeployed to the eastern Bekaa Valley, and then that the Lebanese and Syrian governments agree on how long these forces stay.

In a sign of high tension, a hand grenade was hurled at a Syrian position in the valley, but no one was injured, Lebanese security sources said.

Syria has carried out five redeployments since 2000, pulling some forces to the Bekaa and some back to Syria, but has maintained forces in and around Beirut and in northern Lebanon.

Pressure on Damascus has intensified since former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik al-Hariri was assassinated last month in a bombing many Lebanese blame on Syria. Syria denies involvement.

While the pressure from Arab leaders is veiled, Western governments have become increasingly blunt. US officials said Washington and European allies wanted to be ready to act quickly, perhaps with sanctions and a tougher UN resolution, if Syria failed to pull out. *Reuters*

COLD EUROPE
Picture taken March 4 shows the Champs-Elysees avenue in Paris covered with snow. Temperatures plummeted to a record low in the Netherlands as a Europe-wide cold snap disrupted air travel, forced France to evacuate a prison and kept thousands of children from their classrooms. AF

Bangladesh first to destroy land mine stockpile

DHAKA—Bangladesh has destroyed its stockpile of nearly 200,000 landmines, becomin the first country in heavily mined South Asi to get rid of the weapons under a UN treat the army said Saturday.

Bangladesh's destruction of the landmine under the landmark 1997 UN Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention was funded by th Canadian government.

"We destroyed all our stockpiles of antipersonnel landmines by Feb. 28," an arm spokesperson said.

The tiny Indian Ocean archipelago of th Maldives is the only other South Asian natio to have signed the Ottawa treaty bannin landmines which kill civilians long after wa have ended and render useless huge swathe of arable land in some of the poorest nations

Bangladesh began destroying the land mines in early November.

The landmines were brought to the army ordnance factory near the capital, Dhaka, fo destruction, the army spokesperson said.

Bangladesh's army is keeping 15,000 mine to be used for training soldiers for missions, including UN peacekeeping assignments.

"We've kept limited stock for training pu pose as army officers sometimes operate i heavily mined regions during their UN peac keeping duties," the spokesperson, wh wished to remain anonymous, said.

Bangladesh acquired the landmines fro China, Iran, India, Pakistan, the United Stat and former Yugoslavia, the 2003 Landmine Monitoring Report said. *AFP*

Pope preparing for Sunday Angelus

ROME—Pope John Paul II spent a peaceful night at Rome's Gemelli hospital overnight and was preparing to take part in his traditional Sunday Angelus blessing from hospital for a second time.

Vatican spokesperson Joaquin Navarro-Valls told reporters on Friday the Pontiff would participate in the Angelus in the same way as last Sunday, giving his blessing with his hand from his hospital room window, with the message being read out to pilgrims for him by an aide.

"The Angelus will be like last Sunday. The Pope will participate, giving his blessing," Navarro-Valls had said on Friday.

The arrangements for the papal participation in the Angelus were expected to be confirmed by the Vatican on Saturday.

Doctors performed throat surgery on Feb. 24 after John Paul II was rushed to hospital for a second time in a month with severe breathing complications due to the flu and his long-standing Parkinson's disease.

On Friday the Vatican spokesperson said the Pope's breathing and voice therapy following his tracheotomy last week were "continuing well." *AFP*

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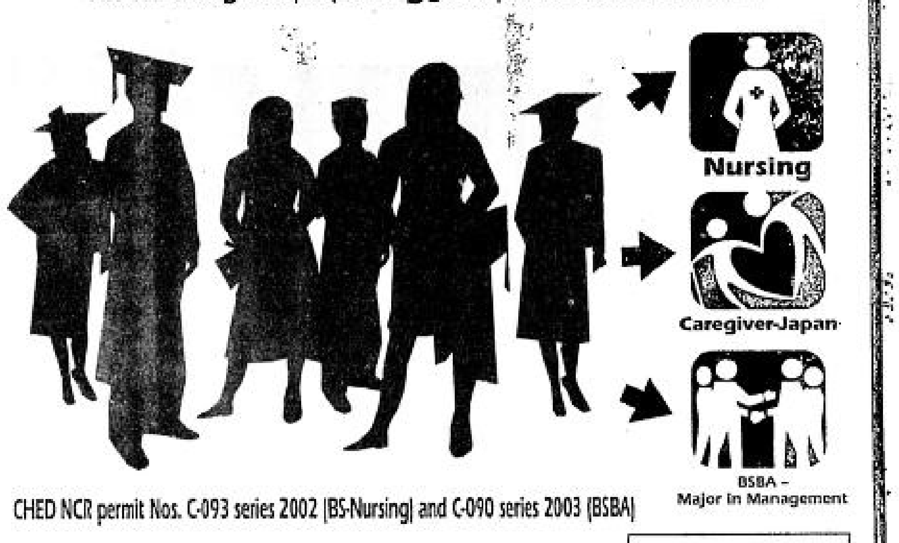

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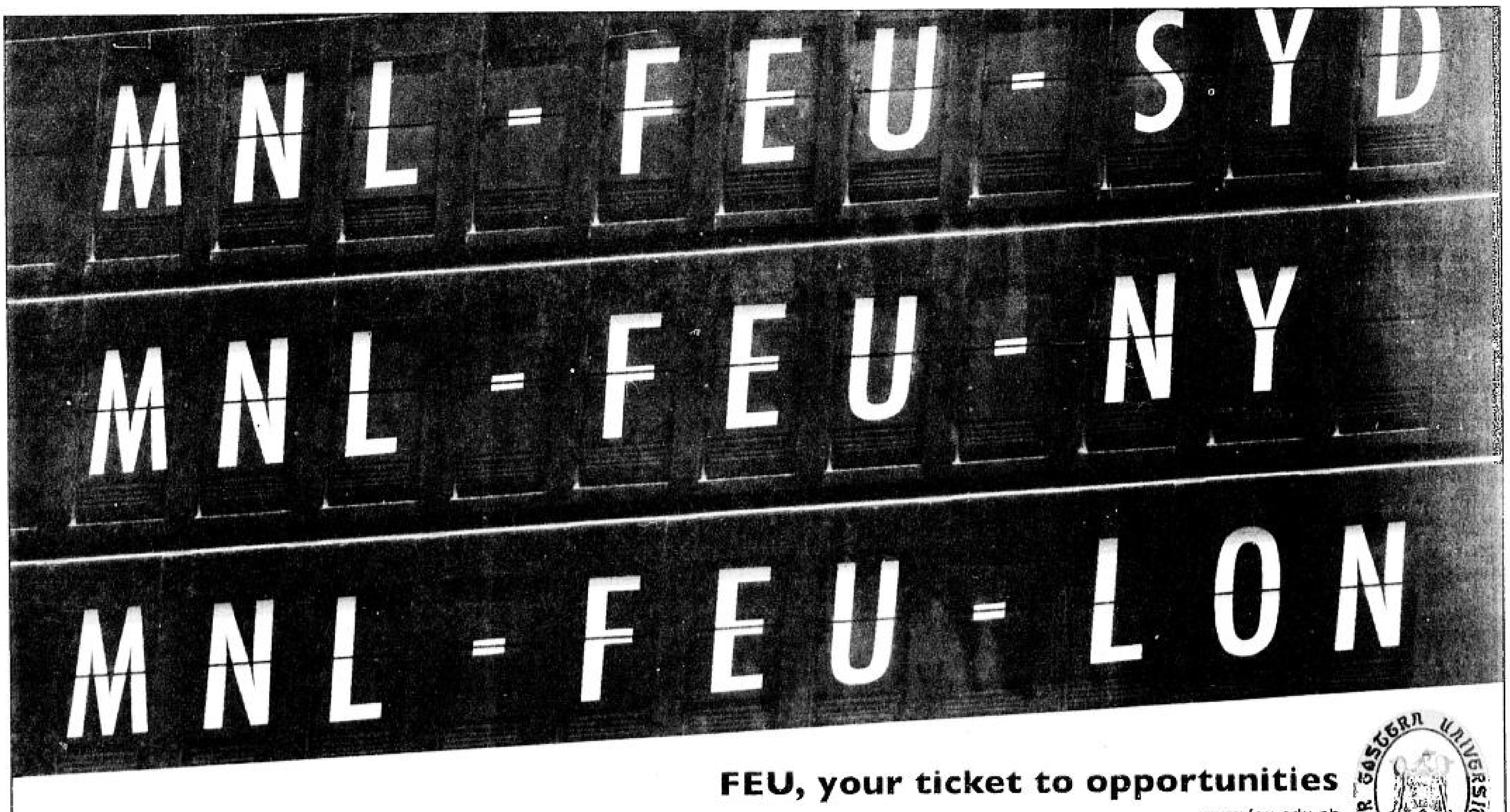

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China: Never to Taiwan independence

BEIJING—Premier Wen Jiabao vowed Saturday never to permit formal independence for Taiwan as he opened a session of China's figurehead parliament that is to enact an antisecession law aimed at the self-ruled island.

In a nationally televised speech, Wen also said China is aiming for 8 percent economic growth this year as it tries to slow a surging expansion that leaders worry could spark financial problems.

Wen gave no details of the antisecession law, which Taiwanese leaders say could set the stage for a military attack. Beijing claims Taiwan, which split from China in 1949, as part of its territory.

Speaking before lawmakers in the cavernous Great Hall of the People, Wen said the law reflects the "strong determination of the Chinese people to… never allow secessionist forces working for 'Taiwan independence' to separate Taiwan from China."

Wen also promised to spend heavily on easing politically volatile poverty in China's vast countryside, where low incomes and heavy taxes have sparked violent protests.

Communist leaders regard rural anger as their most pressing domestic issue, though poverty and social issues were overshadowed by controversy over the planned antisecession law in advance of the National People's Congress session. A final vote on the law is scheduled for March 14, the last day of the congress.

Wen said all farm taxes will be eliminated next year and promised that by 2007 every Chinese child can receive nine years of schooling—an extraordinary commitment in a country where incomes per person average just US$1,000 (euro700) a year. Children from poor families will be exempt from most fees and receive free textbooks, the premier said, though he didn't make clear whether they will still have to pay tuition.

"Solving the problems facing agriculture, rural areas and farmers remains a top priority of our work," Wen said, with President Hu Jintao and other Chinese leaders arrayed behind him on stage.

The 2,985-member NPC approves legislation already decided by the ruling Communist Party. But the body also serves as a tool to keep communist leaders in touch with a fast-changing, increasingly capitalist society and provides a high-profile stage for announcing national policy and initiatives such as the anti-secession law.

As its session opened, hundreds of police and plainclothes security agents stood guard outside the Great Hall and on adjacent Tiananmen Square to prevent demonstrations.

At least two people were detained. Guards bundled a weeping elderly woman in shabby clothes into a van outside the Great Hall after she shouted about a dispute she said had been going on for 20 years. An ethnic Chinese man from abroad was detained after unfurling a banner protesting an investment project gone sour.

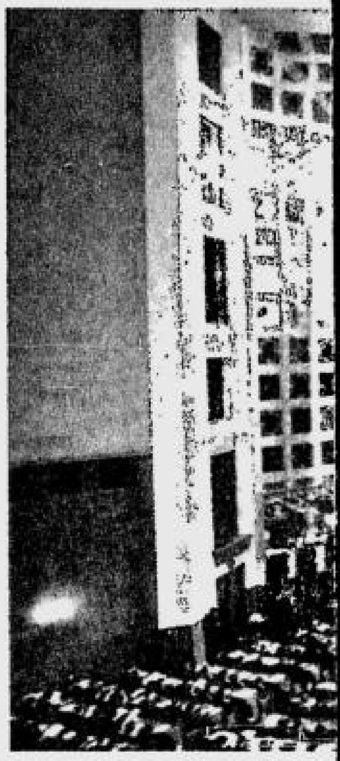
The legislature coincides with reports that Beijing plans to dismiss unpopular Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa.

Tung was to meet with Hu on Saturday afternoon and return to Hong Kong on Sunday, according to an official who asked not to be identified. The official said the meeting's agenda wasn't known yet and he declined to provide other details.

Turning to the economy, Wen promised to push ahead with reforms that have turned China's eastern cities into export-driven powerhouses and drastically lifted incomes.

Wen promised to create 9 million new jobs despite the lower growth target and to hold consumer inflation to 4 percent.

Wen's two-hour speech, interrupted repeatedly by applause, focused on domestic concerns. In a passing reference to foreign affairs, Wen sounded standard themes, saying China would oppose terrorism and hegemony—Beijing's term for sweeping US global power. *AP*



A VIEW of the opening session of the annual National People's Congress, at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing March 5. China opened the annual session of its National People's Congress, one of the world's largest legislatures, where it is due to pass a law aimed at curbing any Taiwanese bid for formal independence.

AFP

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Early 'hobbit' human was smart

WASHINGTON—Tiny pre-humans who lived on an Indonesian island until about 12,000 years ago had brains so surprisingly sophisticated that the creatures may represent a previously unrecognized species of early humans, or hominids, scientists reported on Thursday.

CAT scans of the inside of a skull—among the bones of eight individuals found in a cave on the Indonesian island of Flores—suggest brains that would have allowed advanced behavior such as toolmaking, the international team of researchers said.

They said further study of the skull of the creature, nicknamed "the Hobbit" after a literary character, showed it clearly was a normal adult of its species, not a mutant or diseased specimen, as some critics have alleged.

"I am bowled over," said Dean Falk of Florida State University, who studied CAT scans to make a virtual cast of the inside of the creature's skull.

"I thought we were going to see a little chimpanzee-like brain and I was wrong. Nothing like this has been seen before," she told a telephone briefing.

Falk saw features that would have allowed the "Hobbit" to have made the tools found in the Indonesian cave, to use fire and to hunt as a group.

"I never thought I would see it in a brain this small," she said.

Homo floresiensis stood only about one meter tall and had a brain about a third the size of modern adult humans.

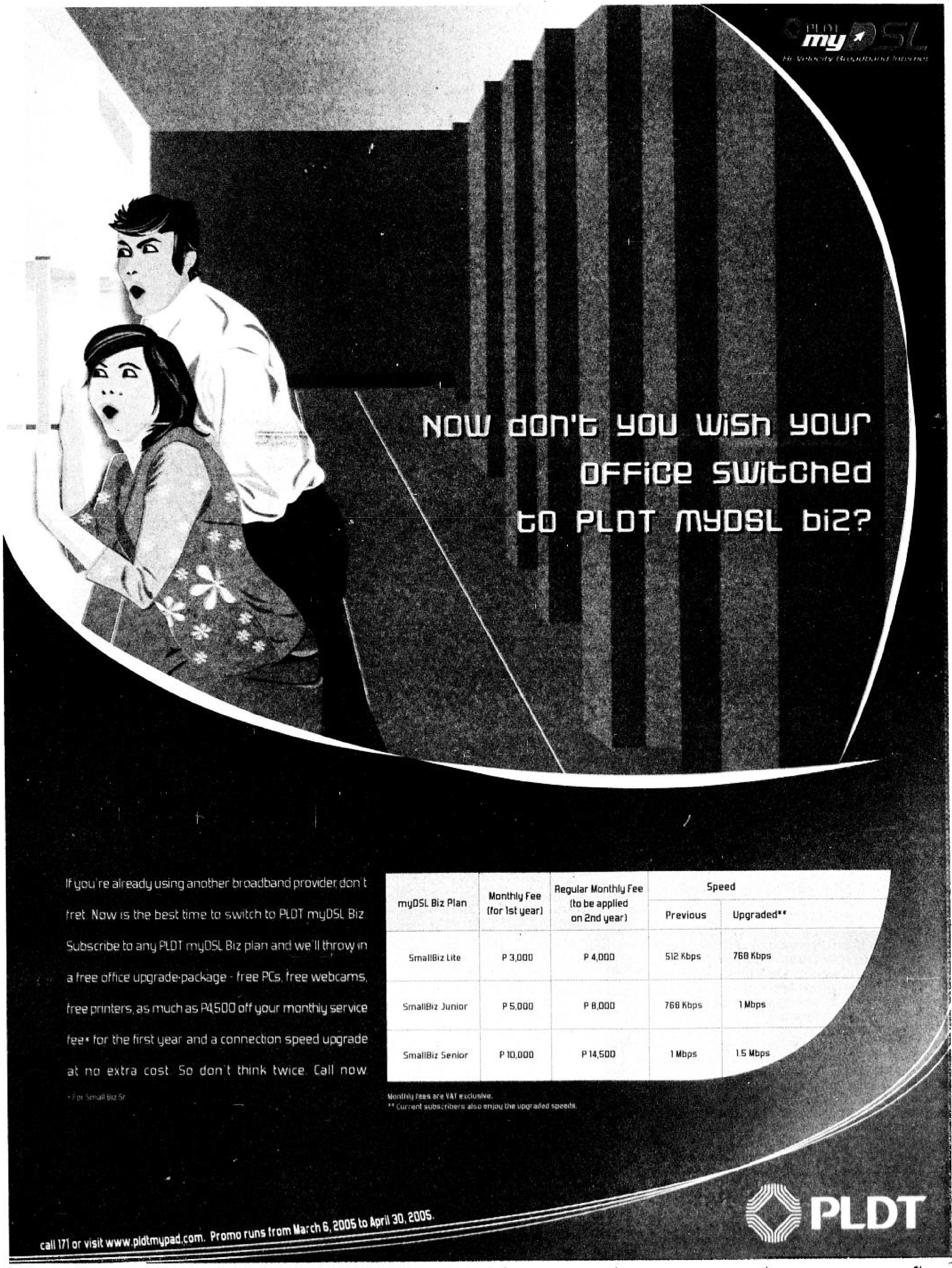
It had long arms and would have walked upright.

"We know from the record that these little humans, these little meter-high humans, were hunting things like pygmy elephants, were making fire and were making stone tools," said Mike Morwood of the University of New England in Australia, who led the initial mission that uncovered the bones.

The discovery, announced last October, was met with surprise and some skepticism. Critics said the bones in fact represented some sort of dwarf or perhaps something suffering from a condition called microcephaly and not a unique species of early human.

But, writing in the journal Science, the team of US, Australian and Indonesian researchers said their unusual study of the inside of the "Hobbit's" brain case showed it was related to Homo erectus, which lived from 2 million years ago to about 25,000 years ago.

"However, it was not like a little miniature Homo erectus brain. It was different," Falk said. *Reuters*



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Suicide notes

EDITORIAL

THE CONTROVERSIAL passage of the 2005 national budget is an object-lesson in politics as practiced in the Philippines. The details paint a vivid portrait of the two houses of Congress as they actually conduct their business: paying lip service to motherhood principles, for instance, and then using the resources of the legislative process itself to pursue their self-interest. Or maneuvering against each other to minimize a perceived disadvantage, and then launching a preemptive war of perceptions.

As we pointed out yesterday, the suggestion from Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago that legislators commit mass suicide as a form of public service is redundant; our lawmakers have done a masterful job of shooting themselves fatally in the foot. But there are at least two vital lessons to be learned from this orgy of self-destruction.

Legislative veterans know that the real action is in the "third chamber." We have known this for years; a legislative measure takes final shape in the bicameral conference committee, when differences between Senate and House versions are reconciled. What all too few of us knew—before the budget controversy erupted—was that the entire, elaborate machinery for approving a bill in one house, from first to third readings, from committee hearings to plenary debates, had become a mere first step, an initial negotiating gambit, for the horse-trading that takes place in the bicam. In other words, for legislative veterans, the "action" in the respective chambers is almost irrelevant.

That is why the House can pass its version of the General Appropriations Act, which was essentially the same as the one submitted by Malacañang, and which, among many other details, pared congressional pork barrel allocations down from P70 million to P40 million each. Why? Because the House leadership promised to restore the original amounts during the bicam.

Some congressmen, like Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla, have said as much. "It will be a big headache for the House leadership. What happens now to its commitments to the membership that their concerns would be addressed at the bicameral conference committee?" Other congressmen have implied it by their intemperate reaction. House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles, for instance, rashly called for the Senate's abolition, only because the Senate's adoption of the House version of the budget, *in toto*, had upset the House leaders' political calculus. And at least one congressman, Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano, asked the House leadership to admit that it had miscalculated, for forcing the passage of the Malacañang version in the first place.

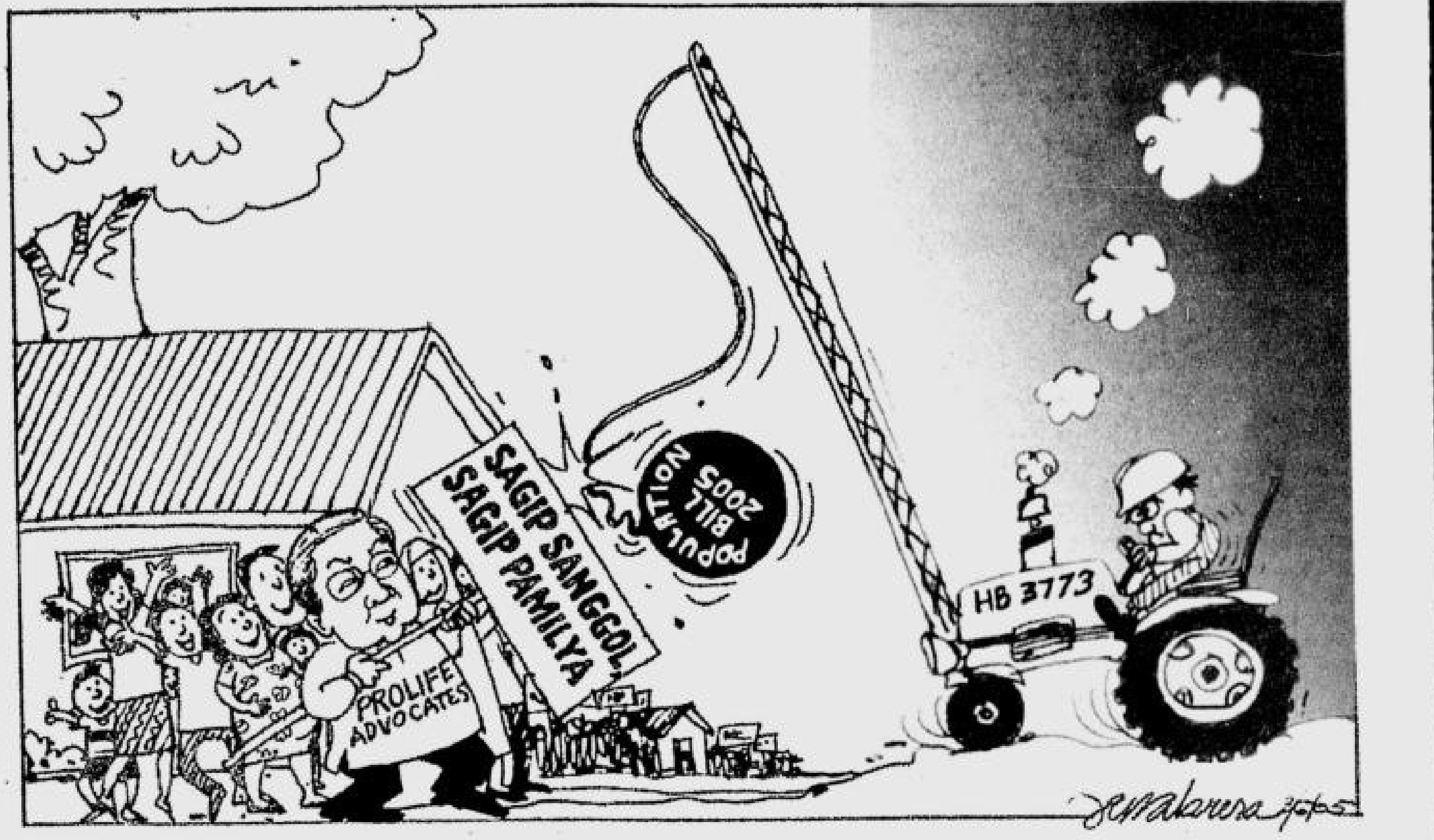
All these prove that when the House passed its version last year, congressmen had no intention of honoring the reduction in the pork barrel they had promised with much fanfare. Their plan was to restore the original amounts in the bicam, or to stall until a reenactment of the 2003 budget, with the old allotments, became inevitable.

The "dignity of the chamber" covers a multitude of sins. The whole hoary notion of "institutional dignity" may be at the root of the Senate's extraordinary decision to recall the approval of its version of the budget, and then to adopt that of the House. Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson's untimely disclosure of the Senate's attempt to "reclassify" P1.3 billion in non-military intelligence funds, aired on the same day President Macapagal-Arroyo rebuked both houses of Congress for the budget impasse, presented the Senate with a public relations nightmare.

Some commentators believe that Lacson was merely confused. Even granting that on the one issue the former presidential candidate has followed most closely, he had jumped to an unwarranted conclusion, the damage was still all too real. And "institutional dignity" required that the Senate move to contain it—even at the cost of undoing all the work done in the last two months.

"Just because they were caught by one of their members, the only way they can divert attention from their own shame is to slap us with dirt that should properly cling to their faces," publisher-congressman Teodoro Locsin Jr. thundered on the floor of the House. But because Locsin, too was defending the dignity of his chamber, his remarks naturally become suspect.

That is what happens when—to extend Bismarck's metaphor—lawmakers bring the entire sausage factory crashing down on themselves.



A patriot of our race

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

Jose P. Laurel Sr. was a striking contrast to some of our present-day leaders

THIS Wednesday will be the 113th birth anniversary of Dr. Jose P. Laurel, who occupies and deserves an honored place in our nation's history. He served with distinction in the three departments of our government, as President of the Philippines during the Japanese occupation, as a member of the Senate before and after World War II, and as a justice of the Supreme Court, where he wielded the most powerful pen, according to Manuel L. Quezon.

In his youth, he enrolled as a *pensionado* in Yale, where he took special studies in Constitutional Law that was to serve him well as a lawyer, as a law professor, as a magistrate, and in his political career. It was his mastery of this subject that made him the acknowledged authority on the structure and functions of the republican government and set apart many of his decisions as enduring celebrations of individual liberty.

In 1923, as a young secretary of the interior in the cabinet of Governor-General Leonard Wood, Laurel dismissed an American detective for bribery. Wood reversed Laurel and ordered his countryman's reinstatement. Laurel complied but at the same time resigned. So did the Filipino members of the cabinet, as well as the Council of State. The feisty Wood, a former wartime general, knew he had been beaten and soon retired.

One of Laurel's best decisions as a jurist is Angara v. Electoral Commission, 63 Phil. 139, where he explained the doctrine of separation of powers with such lucidity and brilliance that it has yet to be surpassed by his successors on the Supreme Court. His definition of social justice in the old case of Calalang v. Williams, 70 Phil. 76, decided in 1939, is still studied in our law schools as the classic description of this constitutional concept.

It was out of respect that we all called him the Old Man although he was still young when he passed away at 67. He was especially fond of the Lyceum of the Philippines that he founded and called "the Alexandria of the East." He as president, his son Teroy as the executive secretary, Dean Jose Adeva of the college of arts and sciences, and I as Teroy's assistant, wet-nursed the fledging school. Sen. Pedro Sabido was the treasurer, and Don Claro M. Recto was the dean of our law school, with then solicitor general Ambrosio Padilla as vice dean.

I became a bar reviewer in Political Law because of Dr. Laurel. In one of the classes in the subject, the professor, a well-known "terror," had resigned in disgust over the students' inattention. I reported this problem to Dr. Laurel and said I had taken it upon myself to keep order in the class pending the appointment of the martinet's replacement. The Old Man saw no problem and acted decisively. He appointed me to take over the subject, thus beginning my own specialization of "more and more about less and less," as he put it.

What I remember best about Dr. Laurel was when, as president of our occupied country, he was pressured by the Japanese generals to conscript Filipinos to fight the Allied forces. Laurel refused. Many of us who were of draft age, and our anxious parents as well, were relieved beyond measure when he announced over the radio that not a single Filipino would be compelled to fight for Japan. The *kempeitai* could have executed him for his defiance but prudently desisted because they knew the whole country was behind him.

It was one of the ironies of Laurel's life that for leading the nation during the travail of the Japanese occupation, he was later accused of collaboration with the enemy. He valiantly defended himself at his trial and would have been acquitted had not President Manuel A. Roxas ended the proceedings with his amnesty proclamation of 1948.

Laurel ran in the 1949 presidential election, which many believe he won but for "the birds and the bees" in Lanao that voted for his opponent, incumbent President Elpidio Quirino. The presumptive winner was vindicated in 1951, when he topped the election for the Senate with an overwhelming majority. During this last term, he authored, over the organized resistance of the Catholics, the law now requiring the study of the works of Rizal in all public and private schools in the country.

Jose P. Laurel Sr. was a striking contrast to some of our present-day leaders who now pay him lip service. He was a true nationalist, not a political lackey of foreign imperialists. He was erudite in law and philosophy unlike the presumptuous ignoramuses and misfits in the Senate today. His unblemished integrity and courage of conviction are an angry indictment of the current immoral and dissolute public service. He was, without question or exaggeration, a patriot of our race.

Out of sight

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

MY friends from Saipan, the family of former Gov. Larry Guerrero, have long wanted to see and taste our Philippine coconut crabs. Wanting to be of help, I asked around where to find them, but to no avail. When I mentioned my predicament to Ramon, our driver at the SVD Mission Office, to my joy, it turned out he knew exactly where to find them coconut crabs. Early next morning, he brought my friends to a market near Mayon Street, where beaming with pride, he showed them, to the disappointments of my friends, the place selling coconut crafts.

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 9, 1-41), Jesus must have been disappointed that after He healed the man who had been blind since birth, all that the pharisees could see was the fact that He did it on a Sabbath. What could and should have been a day of rejoicing and thanksgiving was turned into a day of controversy, and disappointment. Sometimes we, too, can be so "out of sight" when we focus on what is lacking and forget to thank God for our blessings in life. God must sometimes be disappointed with us who receive so much blessings and still end up not happy, but crabby.

* * *

Instead of seeing graces, do you often see crisis and creases? Instead of being grateful, are you often fretful? Instead of counting your blessings, do you count your misgivings? The Lord urges us all today to see the "Big Picture" instead of being focused on our limited, miserable little screens.

* * *

The easiest things to do in this life are to be miserable and to be a kill joy, and some people are specialists in doing just that. There are people who go through life just solving problems, and so forget to celebrate it and all its blessings. Worse are people who create problems and deprive others of life's blessings. The Pharisees were something like that in Jesus' time. Are you something like that in this our time?

* * *

Fr. Antonio Pernia, SVD, the superior general of the Society of the Divine Word (SVD) is in town for a visit. He is the first Asian, the first Filipino superior general of one of the biggest male religious congregations (with about 6,000 members worldwide) in the world today. From where he sits, he has to be on top of so many concerns and problems, and yet Father Tony has not lost his touch for seeing and pointing out what is good, what is promising in everyone.

What gives him joy, he said, is not so much the wealth and the stability of our structures, but the goodness and the efforts of confreres trying to live out their missionary commitment in a simple, quiet, joyful way. More than legalisms, more than functions, more than forecasts, we need leaders who are persons who feel, encourage, affirm and challenge us to move on. We need people who make us feel good about ourselves and, in effect, encourage us to be even better. We need people who show us the "already," and point us to the "not yet" as we journey on.

* * *

It is unbelievable how narrow and closed-minded some people could be. I was sharing with a friend my experience of hearing the confessions of a stewardess on board a plane from Batanes. It was such a grace-filled moment for this woman who in tears accepted God's love and forgiveness. It was also such a humbling moment for me to be there when she was ready to accept God, finally. And what did my friend say, when I was through with my sharing? 'Jerry, the territorial faculties to hear confessions in such cases may have been suspended, but, were you wearing a stole?" Wow! Out of sight *talaga* (really). Here was grace abounding, and all he could think of were the defects and what was wanting.

* * *

Fourteen young men will be ordained priests at the Divine Word Seminary, Tagaytay this March 9, 2005 by Bishop Tagle of the Diocese of Imus. "Ready and Willing" is the motto of our SVD Class 2005. Ten of them will be assigned to foreign missions, i.e., Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Argentina, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Brazil. Let us praise and thank God for the gift of vocations, the gift of priesthood and the gift of missionaries in our day and time.

* * *

May we not lose sight of the fact that we all are missionaries in this world, and that we all should be busy telling the "Good News" to all peoples—wherever we are, and whatever we do. Are you yourself a "good news"?

* * *

We will be sharing the good news to our overseas Filipino workers in Hong Kong at the Sin Ying Secondary School in Kowloon this coming Sunday, March 13. What people need to hear is that God is with them wherever they are and that God loves them whoever they are. May we all be kind to God by introducing Him as someone who loves unconditionally, and may we all be generous to people by introducing this loving God at every and at any moment of their lives. Let us not hold God, and let us not hold back God on other people.

* * *

Yesterday was the first wedding in our family. We did not lose our niece Ren. We gained a nephew in JE Santos. Praise God!

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that if you are out of sight in my life, I am missing a lot. Amen.

‘Leveling the Playing Field’

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST week, Jennifer Rosales was on the front pages of newspapers after winning her second championship trophy on the LPGA (Ladies Professional Golf Association) tour. She beat a young, 15-year-old amateur player, Michelle Wie, to collect the $150,000 first prize money at the SBS Open at Turtle Bay Resort in Kahuku, Hawaii.

About the same time as Jennifer's victory, Filipino archers were winning six medals, including four golds, in the first Asian Grand Prix in Bangkok. The best archers from 17 countries in the region participated in the meet.

The star of the show was Amaya Paz, a 19-year-old UP psychology scholar. She won the women's individual gold, defeating Sydney Olympian Jennifer Chan, scored a gold in the qualifying round and shared the women's team gold. Paz also reset her own record in the FITA 70-meter distance event.

Unfortunately, compared to the publicity and attention devoted to basketball, golf, tennis or billiards, the victory of our archers merited only inside page, making their achievement practically unnoticed.

If Philippine Olympic Committee president Peping Cojuangco is looking for possible gold medals in the coming November SEA Games as well as in future international competitions, Paz is a gift from heaven. But she needs more support, particularly for training, if she is to maximize her potential. With the limited resources available for sports development, we must prioritize the events in which there is potential for excellence and concentrate on these sports.

* * *

If you wish to update yourself on some of the highly controversial issues of the past, and understand what the shouting was all about, and what the real score is on those issues, get a copy of Supreme Court Justice Artemio Panganiban's latest book "Leveling the Playing Field." It's his eighth since joining the high court in 1995 and it highlights the court's response to criticisms of inordinate interference in business matters' with decisions resulting in contracts being annulled.

In a chapter entitled "Gravely Abusive Contracts," Panganiban discusses three such contracts which the Supreme Court struck down because they were tainted with gross abuse of discretion.

The first, during the administration of President Fidel V. Ramos, was a Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) entered into by Amari Coastal Bay and Development Corp. (Amari) and the Public Estates Authority (PEA) for the development and sale of three reclaimed islands in Manila Bay, comprising some 157 hectares. The JVA required Amari to reclaim and purchase an additional 200 hectares of land surrounding these islands.

When the case exploded in media, it was dubbed "the grandmother of all scams." The contract had "conveyed to a private entity 157 hectares of reclaimed public land along Roxas Boulevard at a negotiated price of P1,200 per square meter considering that the market price of land near that area was P90,000 per square meter. The difference in price is a staggering P140 billion, equivalent to the budget of the entire judiciary for 17 years and more than three times the Marcos Swiss deposits that this Court forfeited in favor of the government."

Nothing has been heard about this case since then. An underprice of some P140 billion and no one has been held accountable!

The second case was the Piatco contract. In 1997, also during the Ramos administration, Piatco was awarded a "Concession Agreement" (CA) for the construction and operation of Naia Terminal 3 under the Build Operate and Transfer Law. In 1998, the CA was amended without public bidding and subsequently, three "Supplements" to the CA were signed in 1999, 2000 and 2001 also without public bidding. (This was during Estrada's term.) The original CA, the amended CA and the three Supplements were all challenged in the Supreme Court. The high court ruled that the Manila International Airport Authority had gravely abused its discretion in entering into these contracts. With reference to the amendment and supplementals to the original contract, the Court ruled that once an award is made, "all that is left to be done by the parties is to execute the necessary agreements and implement them. No material changes to the parameters can thereafter be allowed. Otherwise, 'public bidding' becomes a mockery and the modified contract must be struck down."

Today, several Cabinet secretaries, undersecretaries and lesser officials have been charged by the Ombudsman for their roles in the award of Piatco contracts.

The third infamous agreement is the Mega Pacific Contract. Last November, after the US presidential elections, I wrote about this particular case reminding our people that the Commission on Elections had spent P849 million for machines and software that were never used in our own presidential elections. The Supreme Court invalidated the contract between the Comelec and Mega Pacific because "it had been awarded in violation of law and jurisprudence; in reckless disregard of Comelec's bidding rules and procedure; and in inexplicable haste, without adequately checking and observing mandatory financial, technical and legal requirements."

Today, no one has been charged as directed by the Supreme Court. The P849 million has not been recovered and the Comelec is asking for another P1 billion for the ARMM elections.

* * *

We are happy to note that in all three cases, the high court, by its decisions, was able to send clear and unwavering signals that government contracts must be entered into fairly and evenhandedly. The rule of law must continue to be upheld. But if these decisions are to have any meaning, the culprits must also be brought to justice.

Back to the past?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

BY THE TIME you read this, I would be in New York as an NGO member of the Philippine delegation to the meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. The meeting will review the compliance of governments around the world with the Beijing Platform of Action.

The BPFA is the document signed at the end of the Fourth World Conference of Women held in Beijing 10 years ago. That conference was considered a landmark in the decades-old struggle for women's rights and for equality with men under the law and in all spheres of life.

But 10 years after Beijing, as UN Secretary General Kofi Annan warned in his talk at the opening of the two-week meeting, "sex trafficking and the growth of AIDS (are) imperiling the quest for female equality."

Many governments since the 1995 Beijing women's conference have recognized that women's equality was critical to a nation's development and growth, Annan noted in his speech. Still, even as governments search for ways to make women's participation in development real and lasting, other governments, notably the United States, wish to derail this progress by insisting that the assessment focus on a single issue: abortion.

At least 100 government delegations, 80 ministers "from Afghanistan to Peru," as well as 6,000 activists, are sitting together and analyzing progress and setbacks since the Beijing meet.

A report by Reuters notes that "rather than producing a lengthy document, the organizers decided to keep controversies in check by writing a short declaration that re-affirms and pledges implementation of the 150-page platform of action."

To the dismay of key delegates, the report continues, the United States submitted amendments at a pre-conference negotiating session, declaring that the Beijing conference did not create "any new international human rights" and did not include the right to abortion.

"In Beijing, abortion was treated as a health issue, with the platform saying it should be safe where it was legal and criminal action should not be taken against women who underwent the procedure," the report said.

* * *

"ANYONE wanting to know why the rest of the world collectively shakes its head and rolls its eyes at the Bush administration's foreign policies need only look to Monday's high-level United Nations' meeting for evidence," said an editorial of the San Jose Mercury News.

"Never mind that the thrust of the UN platform isn't about abortion rights, but rather about ending discrimination against women in 12 different areas, ranging from health to education to employment. Never mind that the UN strategy on reproductive health is resulting in reduced abortion rates around the world. It's bad enough that the Bush administration continually tries to put itself in every American doctor's office whenever a woman and her physician are discussing such issues. Now it wants to impose its will on women and doctors around the world."

By its insistence on re-opening the contentious debate on abortion, the United States was "left almost entirely isolated" in the sessions, reports say. Officials who were at the meetings said only the Vatican observer supported Washington's hard line.

"This sort of statement is a clear signal to everybody present that the US does not support the Beijing agreement perspective on the human rights of women," said Adrienne German, president of the International Women's Health Coalition.

"It clearly demonstrates that this government has taken a 180-degree reversal from the US government in 1995 and 2000."

* * *

THIS was exactly what organizers had feared going into the "Beijing + 10" review process.

Instead of moving forward and exploring ways by which governments around the world can cross borders and address new and emerging threats to women's health and rights and to gender equality, the review now finds itself mired in an "old" issue, one that had been debated heatedly 10 years ago and on which, it was thought, signatory governments had reached consensus.

Once again, women are being held hostage by the issue of abortion, as if getting pregnant and making a decision to proceed with the pregnancy or to terminate it is all that women are about.

The work of the country delegations in the next few days, then, would be to get the discussions back on track, to leave ideological debates behind and instead focus on what lies ahead: to make progress where progress had been impeded in the last decade.

For the Philippines, among the emerging issues identified earlier were new and more insidious forms of trafficking of women and children, including cybersex; a more focused process of including women in rural and indigenous communities in development planning; innovative approaches to poverty alleviation; and increased mainstreaming of women in all aspects of governance.

* * *

IN HIS speech, Annan recommended "seven specific investments and policies that can be applied readily over the coming decade, on a scale large enough to make a real difference."

These are:

- **Strengthen girls' access to secondary as well as primary education.**
- **Guarantee sexual and reproductive health and rights.**
- **Invest in infrastructure to reduce women's and girls' time burdens.**
- **Guarantee women's and girls' property and inheritance rights.**
- **Eliminate gender inequality in employment.**
- **Increase women's share of seats in national parliaments and local government.**
- **Redouble efforts to combat violence against girls and women.**

Not a bad start, as far as an agenda goes, but nothing really earth-shaking. These are much the same goals talked about and agreed upon 10 years ago. We could and should move forward, if only some folks weren't so intent on dragging us back to the past.

The morning after Edsa

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE STRONG state that Ferdinand Marcos built in 1972 became so wholly associated with human rights violation and massive corruption that when we got rid of it in 1986, we resolved never again to concentrate political power in any single branch of government. In reaction, we found ourselves swinging to the opposite model of a minimalist government that fastened its decision-making powers to a rigid system of checks and balances.

The experience with big-time corruption under the Marcos regime made the new government of Cory Aquino timid about starting large-scale infrastructure projects. One day, toward the end of Cory's term, we were awakened to the consequences of this over-cautiousness by a severe power shortage that required costly emergency measures to address.

Threatened by a coup-prone military that had tasted power, and faced by a surge of populist energy from all directions, the government could not sustain its experimental stance to the country's old problems. It came to rely more and more on the advice and services of traditional politicians who operated by the tested methods of personal patronage. With every election, the old political families that dominated pre-martial law politics came back to power, holding back the momentum of political and economic modernization.

The result of this is that everything we have done by way of reform since 1986 has been halfhearted—agrarian reform, democratization of our political system, electoral modernization, modernization of the economy, etc. Every Edsa anniversary has served as a reminder of how instinctively we have gone back to the old routines. Nineteen years later, Filipinos are again desperately looking for an alternative. What that is is not certain. But not a few otherwise sensible people have broached the idea of a wise and benevolent strongman as if it were a simple matter of naming him.

My own view is that we have not really given democracy a chance to work in our society. I am not entirely sure what kind of political system will work for us, but I think that, regardless of the political choices we make, there are some basic realities we cannot ignore.

First, in the present state of the world economy, we ought to know by now that we cannot hope to gain anything unless we unite and rally our people around a clear set of purposes. Far from receding in value, the role of the state has become more crucial; it has to take a more aggressive role in charting a roadmap for the whole country and coordinating the efforts of its various constituencies.

Second, development has to start from the development of the people—through the provision of the minimum conditions for sustained personal growth, beginning with quality education, and the meaningful inclusion of the poor in various areas of national life. In the short and medium term, they must be provided with all the means necessary for them to be able to effectively plan their families.

Third, the private sector must be brought to a realization that the period in which we live is a critical one. The same social inequities that breed resentful majorities also impede the growth of wealth. It is in the interest of those who have more in life to assist those who have been excluded and denied opportunity, without waiting to be prompted by the government.

Fourth, corruption is a big problem in our country, but it is not the main source of our problems. It is rather an expression of our more basic problems—mass poverty and ignorance, patronage politics, expensive elections, an underdeveloped economy.

Fifth, our individual initiatives are valuable, but the more crucial arena of social change is the public one. Whether we like it or not, the state remains our principal instrument for growth in the modern world. That is why the quality of governance is our most central concern. This means combating patronage and celebrity politics, and encouraging and supporting those who genuinely can advance the interests of the nation. We cannot do this without emancipating our voters from their basic needs, and without launching a relentless campaign to create intelligent and responsible voters.

Sixth, no nation can progress without first instilling national pride and love of country among its people. National pride is to nations what self-respect is to individuals—a precondition for self-improvement. We must arrest our people's dangerous descent to demoralization, and appeal to Filipinos who have made good abroad to help the country in these difficult times.

Seventh, there is no shortcut to development. Most attempts at changing society drastically and fundamentally lead to violent civil wars from which too often nations are unable to recover. Genuine social change does not have to mean an all-or-nothing, cataclysmic overhaul of society. In these times, we need a civil war like we need a bullet in our heads.

Lastly, some of our problems require simple and straightforward solutions, but many are multi-layered and complex. Every initiative rests on certain preconditions. It's like rebuilding an old house—every part of the house you tear down exposes new hidden weaknesses. Every day we are reminded of the truism that it is better to tear down the old house and build a totally new one. Yet it is hard to imagine how you can do that to a whole nation. We need greater patience, and patience is quickly running out.

Edsa prompts us to continue the moral obligation of hoping and working for a better country despite our monumental failures.

Comments to public.lives@gmail.google.com

Pain of age

HIGH BLOOD

Jokee Botor-Reyes

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

I NOW feel the pain of age. Not in my body though. At 65, I still feel very strong physically (and mentally, too). I do not suffer from arthritis like most people of my age. (Some of my friends say arthritis is an indication of old age and I do not believe them.) My blood pressure is perfectly normal, thank God. I can still climb stairs, although I get occasional headaches which come when it is time to pay the bills (house rental, electricity, water, cable TV).

But the most demanding are my two grandchildren's monthly tuition fees. Yes, I am sending my two grandsons to school. They are my son's children and since my son does not have a very rewarding job, I promised to take care of their monthly tuition fees. Y is now 8 and Z is 7 and they are in Grades I and II, respectively. Fortunately and unfortunately, they go to a school run by sisters. As everyone knows, these schools charge high tuition fees though it seems their students are getting the same education as my neighbor's kids who go to a public school. Except, of course, that my grandchildren know their prayers pretty well, go to Mass regularly, talk about Mother Mary and celebrate her birthday on September. They also enjoy more holidays—the feast of the Assumption of our Lady and the birthday of Mother Candida. They also get to have yearly intramurals and Family Day. Both activities are capped with a rest day the following day.

I can still manage to walk a mile. Fact is, I walk to where I take my ride to go to my place of work, and that is more than 2,000 steps away from home. I also walk back home from work, but I negotiate the distance by halves because I drop by the church for my regular Mass and other devotions. People of my age have got to be more spiritual. I do not expect to live for 10 years more. I might be really old by then and I hate to think about it. This is why I have become devoted to my Christian duties, like saying my prayers to the Holy Face of Jesus and St. Anthony on Tuesday, to Our Lady of Perpetual Help on Wednesday, to St. Jude on Thursday and to the Black Nazarene on Friday. I also do not miss my little prayer to the Infant Jesus of Prague and to Our Lady of Guadalupe and Our Lady of Peñafrancia, best of all because she is our patroness in the Bicol region. I have been blessed with so much, e.g., my good health, because of my spirituality. Of course, I have my regular vitamins.

Now, going back to the pain of age. I do not earn as much as I used to. When I got back to work after retiring, I was made to understand that I can only be given this few number of units to teach in college. It means I have to be paid by the hour and it means "No Work. No Pay." Fine. But with so many holidays, I am losing so much number of hours and so much dough. With a President who has a penchant for declaring holidays, I feel so unlucky. For example, there was that Ramadan holiday, the two-day transport holidays, typhoon "Yoyong" (which meant two whole "school-less" days), and the long semestral and Christmas breaks.

As a "part-timer," I do not get the benefits due regular employees, like cash gifts, rice allowance and a full 13th-month pay. And with the cost of living nowadays, it seems very difficult making both ends meet. So, I wish I were younger in age. Why does age have to be a hindrance to work? It should not be. In the States, there are some fast-food joints manned by a crew of senior citizens. And some schools employ professors who are way over 60 years old, as long as they are still mentally fit, can remember their students' names and can grade fairly. I have been made to understand by a school authority that there is a law which says that people who have retired should not be hired as regular employees.

Well, the senior citizen's ID card is some kind of a blessing, a little addition to a very meager monthly SSS pension that can never maintain a simple life. So, senior citizens get discounts for medicines, food but there are some eateries which do not honor the card. You are lucky if you are a Makati resident. Mayor Jejomar Binay allocates a monthly allowance for Makati senior citizens and grants them a 13th-month pay. He even sends them a birthday cake, and they can watch movies every day, *gratis*, in any Makati movie house. But you can only get the senior citizen's ID card upon presentation of a voter's ID. Well. Maybe Manila Hizzoner Lito Atienza can duplicate the same thing in his city or he has never heard of Mayor Binay's program. Maybe, he should think of a similar program for senior citizens to get more support when he runs for another public office after his last term as Manila chief executive ends.

Jokee Botor-Reyes, 65, is a devoted grandmother to three grandsons. She teaches Mass Communication subjects at Trinity College, Quezon City.

IN THE NEWS

Sen. Ralph Recto

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

VIEW FROM LOYOLA HEIGHTS

Beneath the fiscal crisis

By the Economics and Political Science Departments*
Ateneo de Manila University

THE PRESENT fiscal crisis is merely a symptom of a deeper development crisis ailing the Philippine economy. The crisis is manifested in the persistent and worsening uncompetitiveness of the manufacturing and agricultural sectors, and is perpetuated by the inability of the state to reduce monopolistic elements and similar structures that encourage inefficiency and widen disparities.

Over the years, the "boom-bust" behavior of the Philippine economy has persisted, and a sustained take-off remains elusive.

Our economic growth, while appearing respectable in the aggregate, remains narrow (concentrated in a few families, industries and regions), shallow (the bulk of exports are accounted for by electronics and garments both of which have thin local value added and no backward linkages to the rest of the economy) and hollow (unemployment rate has risen even as overall output grew 6.1 percent). Thus, any reforms undertaken must not only target growth, but also improve the quality of such growth so that it generates jobs and reduces poverty.

ILLUSTRATION BY GILBERT DAROY
PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Certain regulatory agencies have been "captured" by the very firms they are supposed to regulate

The service sector has seen accelerating growth since the early 1980s, but the economy's potential growth is perennially constrained by the erratic and declining growth of the manufacturing sectors, low growth in the crop and fishery sectors, and the mostly negative growth performance of the forestry sector. Manufacturing declined steadily over the past two decades, with its gross domestic product (GDP) share dropping from 25 percent in the 1970s to 22 percent by the late 1990s and early 2000.

In contrast, GDP share of manufacturing sharply increased in Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. There is a tendency to blame the decline in Philippine manufacturing on trade liberalization, exchange rate policy and the external financial environment. Interestingly, the growth of manufacturing in neighboring countries was accompanied by similar growth in their manufacturing exports. This reflects improved international competitiveness, which can only come from a more liberalized trade environment rather than a highly protected one.

Monopoly power

The transition to an export-oriented industrialization strategy with foreign capital involvement in the 1990s has not led to an industrial strengthening normally seen elsewhere. Apart from its limited impact on value added, employment and net trade, trade liberalization has not resulted in a reduction in the degree of monopoly power, as would normally be expected from such market opening.

A World Bank report in 2000 noted that the corporate sector remained highly concentrated. A survey conducted in 1997 found that 757 out of the 1,000 largest corporations (ranked by sales) were Philippine-owned, and 216 belonged to only 39 corporate groups. The sales of the 216 group-owned companies accounted for 51 percent of the total sales of the largest Philippine-owned corporations.

The same study also found that in 1997, among publicly listed non-financial companies, one dominant shareholder controlled on average 41 percent of the equity, while the top 5 shareholders had majority control of 3 out of every 4 listed companies. The report surmised that this figure underestimated the phenomenon as less than 10 percent of the 1,000 largest corporations are listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

An Asian Development Bank study measured the degree of monopoly in the country, using industry markup price as a gauge (Felipe 2004). Results indicated that while trade liberalization was underway in the 1990s, the degree of monopoly increased. The study attributed the increased markup price to the firms' conscious efforts to maintain their profit rate. In turn, the ability to keep the profit rate was made possible by more intensive use of capital in the labor production process. As a result, fewer workers were employed.

Income inequality

A study by Aldaba (2004) calculated the proportion of industry sales accounted for (concentration ratio) by the top four firms in Philippine industries. Her results show that the manufacturing sector has become more and more highly concentrated, with the average ratio having increased from 71 percent in 1988 to 81 percent in 1998. Furthermore, the proportion of manufacturing industries with concentration ratios ranging from 70 percent to 100 percent rose from 65 percent in 1988 to almost 90 percent by 1998.

The evidence thus points to increased concentration of economic power through the 1990s, when conscious efforts to consolidate market dominance managed to thwart increased competition through market contestability that trade liberalization would have normally provided. This increased monopoly power even in a more liberalized trade regime appeared to make the Philippines experience with liberalization somewhat unique. With this trend, it is not surprising that income inequality widened through the 1990s in spite of a stronger economy.

The high degree of concentration in industry has led to our failure to attain higher levels of production and employment. Basic economic theory teaches that monopoly power leads to lower (but profit-maximizing) industry output and inhibits the use of more widely-beneficial (e.g. more labor-intensive) modes of production.

Trap

This has kept our economy mired in a "low level equilibrium trap" that has kept us from attaining the much higher rates of economic growth enjoyed by our neighbors since the 1980s.

The problem is that government itself has been largely instrumental in attaining and perpetuating such monopoly power. Our economic history has paved the way for a state continuously captured by vested interests.

The industrial sector has been dominated by an oligarchy comprising a coalition of factor owners (mostly of capital and land) and allies in public authority. Through a series of policy reversals from the competition-enhancing reforms of the late 1980s and the 1990s, the government has protected a select group of capitalists by preventing other firms from introducing changes that would increase competition and productivity.

On top of this, certain regulatory agencies have been "captured" by the very firms they are supposed to regulate, further perpetuating monopolistic tendencies in key economic sectors. Over the years, the oligarchy used its economic base to coalesce with the state, thereby perpetuating and even intensifying concentration of economic cum political power.

Agenda for democratization

Paul Rosenstein-Rodan coined the term "big push," referring to the concerted economy-wide and public policy-led effort to accelerate economic growth despite market and government failures (Rosenstein-Rodan 1961). The "big push" requires a state committed to genuine development and relatively autonomous from oligarchic interests.

If its vision of a strong republic is to become reality, the government must take decisive steps toward the dismantling and transformation of the age-old structures of political-economic power that have long been weakening the republic by fostering failure of coordination and uneven development that have served to widen, rather than narrow, the gaps in Philippine society.

We believe that commitment to the following 10-Point Agenda for Economic Democratization should convincingly set the country in this direction:

1 Rectify the injustices in the country's revenue system. The massive leakages in government revenues through rampant tax evasion and corruption in revenue agencies should no longer be taken as a given. The agencies must be equipped, empowered and restructured if need be, to make vast improvements in their revenue collection efficiency. Both the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Bureau of Customs (BOC) are now equipped with information and communication technology to expose tax fraud. But exposing fraud is just a first step. Translating this to stronger tax compliance and revenue collection requires much more work within these agencies, complemented with partnerships with the private sector and civil society.

2 Complete the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) at the soonest possible time. Studies have shown that delays in CARP's completion, rather than the program itself has dampened investments in agriculture. Evidence abounds that agrarian reform beneficiaries and landowners, who have already complied with CARP, invest more in improved farm productivity. It is the landowners still facing the uncertainty of CARP implementation in their landholdings who have pulled down investments in the agricultural sector. The solution is not to abandon CARP, but to accelerate it.

3 Accelerate the implementation of other asset reform programs. Greater political will is required to assert the delineation of municipal waters for the exclusive use of small artisanal fisherfolk. Distribution of ancestral domain titles to indigenous groups and community-based urban land redistribution and social housing initiatives should be pursued. Greater private sector and nongovernment participation must be encouraged in micro-finance programs targeting the entrepreneurial poor. Encouraging firms to experiment in various forms of workers' participation at the factory level could reduce social conflict and improve the investment climate.

4 Make small and medium enterprise (SME) development the government's center-piece program for invigorating the economy and generating jobs. SME development is not the sole concern of the Department of Trade and Industry. Various government departments and agencies, particularly the Department of Science and Technology, Department of Education, Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, Cooperatives Development Authority, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and Department of Interior and Local Government, have key roles to play in the effort to make SMEs the engine of economic growth and job generation in the years ahead.

Each government agency concerned needs to prioritize SME development in terms of budget allocation and work programming.

5 Strengthen state institutions to pursue long-term development goals based on democratic consultation. The government must reform institutions so that these could implement key reforms without undue influence from vested interests. Independence and objectivity of regulatory agencies must be beyond question (i.e. stop "regulatory capture"). A coherent and comprehensive competition policy needs to be enacted, with a strong institution to enforce it (e.g. a Fair Trade Commission built on the existing Tariff Commission). Multi-stakeholder participation and consultation must be an integral part of key governance processes.

6 Sustain a broad-based campaign against corruption. It would take convincing leadership at the top, possessed with genuine commitment and zero tolerance for corruption, to take the Philippines out of the list of top corrupt countries in the world. Political power must be delinked from economic power for the latter to be more widely dispersed. A key element in curbing corruption is improved management, interlinking and assurance of the integrity of basic records and information such as those of the Land Registration Authority, Civil Registry, Securities and Exchange Commission BIR, BOC and Land Transportation Office, among others.

7 Intensify decentralization of development initiatives. The growing list of recognized "islands of good governance and best practices" all over the country shows that devolution and decentralization have worked well for the country. We need a "second wave of decentralization" that will move beyond decentralizing functions and resources already provided for under the Local Government Code of 1991; put in place mechanisms for replicating the recognized local best practices (e.g. Naga City, Nueva Vizcaya, Cebu City and others) more widely; and undertake affirmative action for the countryside in concerns such as infrastructure planning, SME development and many others.

8 Guarantee the public's right to information. While the right to public information is enshrined in the Constitution and is guaranteed by codes of conduct for public officials, there are no legally enforceable rights in this regard. Thus, it is important that the proposed "Right to Public Information Act" be enacted and regulations that seek to restrict freedom of public expression such as the sedition and libel provisions in the Revised Penal Code be repealed.

9 Reform the political and electoral processes toward greater inclusiveness. Various bills have long been pending to reform political processes. These include bills that would provide public funding for legitimate political parties, tight controls on private political campaign contributions, banning of political dynasties, and overhaul of the electoral process. Reforms are needed to transform the nation's politics from one that is focused on personalities to one that is focused on principles and merit.

10 Institutionalize mechanisms for "social sharing." Clearly, eliminating poverty cannot be financed from government's meager resources alone. Recent statistics now tell us that one out of every four Filipino families is poor. If only one out of every three non-poor families assists one poor family and nurtures it out of poverty, then poverty need not be inevitable. The challenge is to devise mechanisms by which such "social sharing" from the haves to the have-nots can be widely mobilized, directed and channeled so as to reach every poor family" in the country. Laudable programs like the Gawad Kalinga, Adopt A School, and "adopt a poor family are worthy of being scaled up to the national level.

Hardly any of these recommendations are new. We have widely agreed on most of them in the past as imperative for the country. What has always been lacking is that rarest of commodities called ***political will***, the genuine desire on the part of the nation's leaders to put aside personal interest in favor of the common good. But if the quest for a strong republic will be more than just empty rhetoric, there is no other way to go. Otherwise, the Philippines will be condemned to an existence characterized by persistent muddling through from crisis to crisis and never quite getting anywhere.

(This is a condensed version of the paper "Beneath the Fiscal Crisis: Uneven Development Weakens the Republic" that the authors released on Feb. 28. The views expressed here represent those of the authors and not of the University.)

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2 kidnapped Iligan traders released

COTABATO CITY—The suspects in Wednesday's kidnapping of two businessmen in Iligan City were forced to free their captives because of the intense military operation against them and after the family of one of the victims threatened to retaliate against the suspects' families, the military said yesterday.

Brig. Gen. Benjamin Dolorfino, commander of the Joint Task Force Ranao, said the family of Gerard Tomawis had threatened to abduct the suspects' relatives if he was not released.

The Tomawises are prominent figures in the Lanao provinces and are considered one of the largest political clans there.

"It's a traditional way of resolving kidnapping (in Lanao), tooth for a tooth," Dolorfino told radio station dxMS here.

Tomawis was handed over to civilian negotiators in the hinterlands of Baloi, Lanao del Norte, early morning Friday.

Tomawis and engineer Vincent Jariol were driving around Iligan City on Wednesday evening when snatched by armed men at gunpoint.

Their Starex van was later recovered in Pantao-Ragat in Lanao del Norte, in which traces of blood were also found.

The following day, the kidnappers telephoned Jariol's wife demanding P10 million in ransom.

They also allowed Jariol to speak with his wife to tell her he was wounded in the head after the suspects hit him for refusing to go with them.

The military, in coordination with local Moro Islamic Liberation front (MILF) rebels, later launched a manhunt.

Dolorfino said Tomawis and Jariol were separated by their captors.

When Tomawis learned that he was the only one being released, he refused to leave.

"Tomawis at first refused to be freed without his friend engineer Jariol," Dolorfino said.

After a series of negotiations, the kidnappers, whom Dolorfino did not identify, agreed to released Jariol on the same day.

"We were closing in on the kidnappers' location that's why they were forced to release Jariol," he said of the joint military-MILF operation.

Dolorfino said no ransom had been paid to the kidnappers but said some amount of money was spent for the negotiations.

The military earlier pounded a suspected lair of the Pentagon, another group involved in kidnappings in Mindanao, and killed five of its members.

In retaliation, the Pentagon fired a rocket grenade at a village near a military camp, wounding at least seven civilians. The military said the attack was in retaliation for the military offensive. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Military report tags slain dad as NPA member

By Norman Bordadora

THE ARMED Forces Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) has tagged slain Tarlac City Councilor Abelardo Ladera as one of those who incited the violence that resulted in the picket line massacre at the Hacienda Luisita in November last year.

A Nolcom briefing paper obtained by the militant Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas identified Ladera as one of the "prominent leftist sectoral personalities" who allegedly agitated the laborers and farm workers at the hacienda.

"(The Nolcom) briefing paper on the Hacienda Luisita issue (showed) Councilor Ladera is one of those on top of the list, that the military branded as agitators of the dispute... We have also received reports that the individuals on the Nolcom briefing paper have been warned of having a serious threat to their lives," KMP secretary general Danilo Ramos said.

The supposed Nolcom briefing paper also identified as among the hacienda agitators such personalities as Bayan Muna Representatives Satur Ocampo and Teddy Casiño, Anakpawis Rep. Rafael Mariano and Gabriela Rep. Liza Masa.

"(The briefing paper painted) the scenario that these individuals from the local level up to the national level are the ones who instigated the strike," Ramos said.

According to the document, Ladera is a nephew of Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio Rosal, alias Ka Roger. The paper alleged that Rosal even castigated Ladera for the small number of casualties in the Nov. 16 massacre.

Ladera was reportedly in the meeting between leaders of the hacienda workers, those from Central Azucarera de Tarlac and leaders of the CPP and New People's Army in the area.

The meeting reportedly planned the violence that would lead to a considerable number of deaths that would further incense the hacienda workers.

A certain Danny Ladera was also on the list. He was identified in the paper as a member of the Tarlac Provincial Committee of the NPA and also a nephew of Rosal's.

Dumaguete execs get lotto lesson

By Romy G. Amarado
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—For trying to regulate the operation of the national government's online lottery (lotto), the vice mayor and the city legal officer here were suspended for 90 days.

Regional Trial Court Judge Victor C. Patrimonio of Branch 35 in Dumaguete has ordered the suspension of Vice Mayor William Ablong and lawyer Neil Rey Lagahit, effective March 1.

Patrimonio said the suspension was in accordance with the provision of Republic Act 3019 (Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act) and Supreme Court decisions which said that "preventive suspension is mandatory... while the criminal prosecution is pending in court."

The suspension was in relation to a case filed by a lotto operator here whose outlet was closed down twice by the city government in 2001 and 2003 for, among others, failing to secure a mayor's permit.

Ablong, reached for comment on Friday, said he found it ironic that he and Lagahit would have to be suspended and criminally charged when they were only implementing the law.

Ablong and Lagahit are facing a criminal case filed in court by the Ombudsman in the Visayas based on a complaint lodged by Teresita Zamora, a lotto operator in this city, in connection with the 2003 closure of her lotto outlet.

The two city officials are now out on bail.

In 2001, Zamora's lotto outlet in Barangay Bunao, this city, was padlocked on orders of City Mayor Agustin Perdices. She then filed a case against the mayor, which is still pending at the RTC here.

While waiting for the decision of the case, Zamora went to the Court of Appeals (CA) seeking a restraining order against the city government. In March 2003, the CA directed the city government to refrain from closing the complainant's establishment while the case was still pending in court.

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Iloilo bishop asks GMA to abandon coal plants

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Jaro Archbishop Angel Lagdameo has called on President Macapagal-Arroyo and other government officials to drop plans to put up coal-fired power plants in Iloilo.

"I appeal to (the President) to consider alternative sources of energy," Lagdameo told the INQUIRER after celebrating Mass in a rally against coal plants on Thursday at the grounds of new Iloilo provincial capitol.

The rally, attended by around 3,000 protesters, was the biggest so far against plans to put up 100-megawatt coal-fired plants in Concepcion and Barotac Viejo towns, both in northern Iloilo.

Protesters from parishes in Iloilo and students of Church-run schools in the city joined environmental advocates, nongovernment organizations and residents of Concepcion and Barotac Viejo in the rally that was in commemoration of the anniversary of last year's rejection by the Iloilo provincial board of a similar project in Banate town, Iloilo.

Lagdameo said the gains from putting up coal-fired power plants "will not outweigh their destructive effects on agriculture, fishing and human life in the future."

Calling on his flock

He called on his flock to firmly oppose the plants.

"It may not be our generation that will suffer from the evil effects of the coal-fired power plants. But we are socially and morally obliged to save future generations from their evil effects by doing what we are doing now," he said during the Mass.

Two archbishops and six bishops in Western Visayas and Romblon province earlier issued a pastoral letter opposing the plants in their dioceses and archdioceses.

Various Church groups have formed an alliance to block the projects. The groups include the Diocese of Iloilo of the Iglesia Filipina Independiente, Promotion of Church People's Response, and Kapatirang Simbahan para sa Bayan.

Energy officials said the projects are necessary to bridge the projected energy supply deficit in Panay.

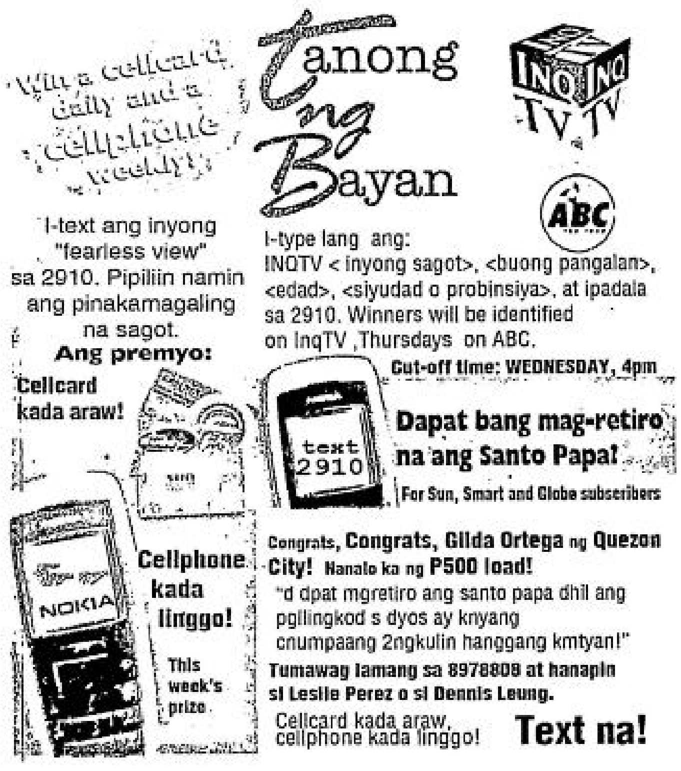
Government support

The projects have been supported by government officials led by the President, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas Sr.

Adrian Moncada, assistant vice president for new business of Mirant Global, in an earlier interview, has assured the safety of the plant they are planning to put up in Barotac Viejo.

He said the plant would be constructed and operated consistent with environmental laws and regulations and would use technology that minimizes emissions.

But Frances Quimpo, executive director of the Center for Environmental Concerns, said even the advanced technology used by coal plants have not substantially reduced emissions of substances that are hazardous to the environment and human health.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CHILDREN enjoy the Ipitik Festival as participants, during Baguio City's Flower Festival.
EV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Festival held to celebrate 'tapuy,' wine-making skills of Cordillerans

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—A good reading from the bile of each of the three pigs sacrificed during the Ipitik Festival—a celebration of Cordillera arts, crafts and culture—signaled the merriment that featured the region's best *tapuy* (rice wine) on Saturday.

Jars of *tapuy* (or tapuey), carefully prepared by the Cordillera's master brewers, were opened during the *ipitik* (the ritual act of opening a jar of *tapuy*, accompanied by chants and prayers) to a crowd of more than 1,000 that gathered at Burnham Park here.

The Ipitik Festival, which was part of the activities of the 10th Baguio Flower Festival or Panagbenga, chose the best *tapuy* brewer among seasoned brewers in the region.

Baguio Rep. Mauricio Domogan acted as the festival's *mambunong* (shaman) who led the prayers and chants imploring *Kabunian* (supreme being) to bless the wine at the ceremony. Visitors took turns tasting the rice wine, served in coconut shells and stored in 24 *gusi* .(earthen jars).

As part of the festivities, 200 chickens were butchered and prepared in *pinikpikan* style. This chicken soup dish is a traditional dish common to households in the Cordillera villages.

To prepare the *pinikpikan*, a chicken is continuously hit with a stick until it dies. The chicken is roasted to remove its skin and then placed in a pot of boiling water. It is garnished with chunks of *sayote* and flavored with salt.

"To better enjoy the *tapuy*, [we included in the activities] the cooking of *pinikpikan*. One cannot [enjoy the *tapuy*] without the [*pinikpikan*]," said theater artist Ferdie Balanag, chair of the festival.

Balanag said the *tapuy* brewers came from the different towns of Benguet, Mt. Province and Ifugao.

Local historian Isikias Picpican said the festival recognized the wine-making skills of Cordillerans.

"Each village in the Cordillera has an ingenious way of preparing the *tapuy*. This event is not only a tribute to the wine makers but to all the people of the Cordillera," Picpican said.

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RP, Saudi draw closer to pact on drugs, terror

DAVAO CITY—The Philippines is moving closer to signing an antiterror cooperation agreement with Saudi Arabia, Bahnarim Guinomla, Philippine ambassador to Saudi, said Thursday.

Guinomla said the antiterror pact, which could be signed before the year ends, is only one of the six bilateral agreements the Philippines was trying to hammer out with the oil-rich Arab country that has been under increasing attack from terrorists.

"Two of the pending bilateral pacts that the country hopes to sign with Saudi Arabia before the end of the year involved strengthening each others' capability in fighting drugs and terror," Guinomla told reporters during a business forum here attended by visiting Saudi traders.

He said the country is looking forward to strengthening security ties with Saudi Arabia in the wake of continuing threats from Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida group and its Southeast Asian link, the Jemaah Islamiyah.

JI is allegedly working with the Abu Sayyaf to sow terror in the Philippines.

"We are stepping closer to forging security ties with Saudi Arabia in combating transnational crime, which include terrorism," Guinomla said.

He said that the Philippines has recently joined the international conference on counter-terrorism in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, upon invitation by the Saudi Arabian government.

"At the same time, the governments of Saudi Arabia and the Philippines are now harmonizing the draft agreements in fighting the trafficking of illegal drugs," he added.

The United States said terrorism and drugs are linked.

"We realize the benefits of working hand in hand to fight and prevent this vile monster, (illegal drugs) from wreaking havoc on either country," Guinomla said. *Germelina A. Lacorte, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

NBI hunts cyber-terrorist based in C. De Oro

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation is currently on the lookout for one of the world's most wanted cyber-terrorists, who is reported to be a student of Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

The student is currently on the FBI's list due to his documented activities on hacking software programs, including the online game MU, currently the second most popular online game in the Philippines.

Representatives of Webzen Inc., the game's developer, filed a formal complaint against the student at the NBI office in Cagayan de Oro City.

The NBI also raided two Internet cafes in Cagayan de Oro for operating private servers that use unauthorized versions of MU.

Lawyer Salvador Belaro Jr., counsel for Webzen, said in a press statement Webzen had no choice but fight rampant violations of its property rights.

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ROUNDUP

Language school opens

PILI, Camarines Sur—The provincial government of Camarines Sur opened its school for the first free language course on Nihonggo, a commonly spoken Japanese language, for the first batch of 150 students interested in seeking employment in Japan or Japanese firms operating elsewhere in the world. The Camarines Sur Japanese Language Learning Center project aims to equip college students, graduates and professionals the competitive edge in applying for jobs in Japanese firms. Gov. Luis Raymund Villafuerte Jr. launched the project to improve the chances of employment of students whose areas of expertise are in information technology, engineering, architecture, nursing and caregiving.
Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

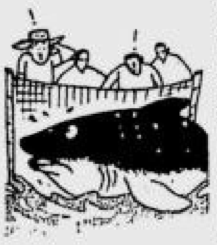
Covenant for Sierra Madre

SINILOAN, Laguna—A group of environmentalists from the academe, local governments, private sector, church and nongovernment organizations signed a covenant to restore and protect the Laguna portion of the Sierra Madre mountain range and prevent soil erosion, landslides, mudslides and floods in the lowlands. The covenant was reached after a forum on Feb. 24 here. It asked the forum participants to convene major stakeholders by sharing expertise, resources, information and knowledge; identifying issues and concerns; and mapping out strategies for the Laguna Sierra Madre Development Program. Dr. Virgilio T. Villancio, manager of the Land Grant Management Office at the University of the Philippines Los Baños, said farmers from the lowland migrate to the mountains in search of livelihood and land.
Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Mt. Banahaw bill

LUCENA CITY—Advocates for the protection of Mt. Banahaw and Mt. San Cristobal trooped to Congress on Feb. 28 to help convince lawmakers to pass a law that would help stop slash-and-burn farming, quarrying and other forms of destruction of the two mountains. Representatives Rafael Nantes and Proceso Alcala have filed HB 2773, seeking to declare the two mountains and their buffer zones in Laguna and Quezon as a legislated protected landscape. On June 25, 2003, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued Presidential Proclamation 411 designating the two mountains as a protected area. But Congress should still pass a law that would make a protected area part of an integrated protected area system.
Dellin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Whale sharks surface



MALILIPOT, Albay—Some 50 fishermen, beach goers and bystanders at the Palale Beach Resort here flocked to the shore to feast on the sight of a whale shark that surfaced in their municipal waters at about 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 27. The whale shark, about six meters long, was trapped inside a fishing net. "Our net was damaged as the whale shark struggled to free itself," said fisherman Julio Benitez, who freed the creature after an hour. In Bacacay town, a whale shark, believed to be the one caught earlier in Malilipot, was trapped inside a fish pen at Barangay Cajugotan on Monday. The fish pen caretakers immediately freed it.
Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Reds apologetic

LUCENA CITY—The New People's Army apologized for the death of a three-year-old girl during an NPA attack on a military detachment in Rodriguez town in Rizal on Monday. "We convey our sincere apology to the family of the victim. It was an unfortunate incident," Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson, said in a phone interview. He said the CPP had already ordered an investigation of the incident. "Once proven that there were shortcomings on the part of the concerned NPA team, they will be meted disciplinary action," he said.
Dellin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

No more rivers to cross for Manobo kids

By Germelina Lacorte
Davao City

AT THE SIGHT of the new school building in Davao City, the 13-year-old Manobo-Matigsalog girl burst into tears.

Naning Ansudo recounts, in between sobs, how years before, she had to hike up and down the mountain slopes, just to go to the nearest public school in another Marilog village, 3 kilometers away.

Sitio Malicongcong, where the school is found, can be reached only through an arduous journey along balding mountains and a flood-prone river. This makes it very difficult for children of the Manobo-Matigsalog living near the boundaries of Davao and Bukidnon to go to school.

"When the rain comes, crossing the river was never that easy," says Naning, who never got to finish Grade 1.

Now, the Australian-funded Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM) project has put up a tribal learning center right at the heart of her own village. Naning is among the 39 children who will start learning under the project's early childhood education curriculum.

Her classmates are a motley batch of children aged 7 to 12 years old, she says.

On Saturdays and Sundays, adult people of the tribe will spend time to learn to read and write, and several new ways on how to earn a living.

"This learning center should change the children's lives," says Australian Ambassador to the Philippines Ruth Pearce, the first foreign diplomat to visit the area.

LUMAD parents and their children during the inauguration of the one-building school in Sitio Maluan in Marilog, Davao City.
GERMELINA LACORTE

She calls the project "Australia's best ... in the Philippines because it's about the future of the children."

BEAM follows the standard curriculum of the Department of Education (DepEd) but integrates the tribe's culture.

Medium of instruction

On the blackboard, one can read phrases like "*meupia ne mapun*," translated into English as "good afternoon," and into Filipino as "*magandang hapon*," along with the days of the week in Manobo-Matigsalog.

Jerry Reyes, a Mansaka pastor and parateacher in the functional literacy adult class, says the tribe's language is being used as medium of instruction to let the children learn the basics of how to read and write.

Sitio Maluan sits on a hilly area that forms a basin in this part of hinterland Marilog, near the boundary of Davao and Bukidnon, home to a thousand Manobo-Matigsalog people. Only over a hundred of them live in Maluan.

A dirt road branches out of the paved Davao-Bukidnon highway and snakes through seven kilometers of bald, mountainous terrain.

Reyes recounts that when he first came to Maluan five years ago, one could never see a house made of GI sheets and plywood.

"They used to huddle together in very small huts made of cogon grass. There was no potable water for drinking, no electricity yet," he says. "Now, it's such a joy to find a school in our midst."

The one-room building put up by the tribe out of materials supplied by the project stands for people's hope in the future, says Dr. Diamar Kadon, DepEd director for Southern Mindanao.

On Mondays to Fridays, the structure will serve as venue for the children's early childhood program, and on weekends, for the functional literacy class for out-of-school youths and other tribe members still learning to read and write.

It will also be the center of cultural activities. But most of all, it will house some of the tribe's remaining artifacts.

Funded by some A$27.8 million (P1 billion) from the Australian government, BEAM is one of the foreign-assisted projects in Mindanao seeking to improve access to education of Moro and indigenous peoples.

"We're concentrating in areas where children have difficulties getting to mainstream schools," says D'Arcy Walsh, Australian project director.

Second stage

BEAM's second stage seeks to address pressing education issues, such as the impact of the conflict situation in the three regions, the consistently low basic education indicators, and low participation rates in Mindanao compared to other parts of the country.

Its Lumads Integrated Functional Education (LIFE) program is focused on indigenous peoples' communities, while a similar program, Providing Educational Access for Cultural Enhancement (PEACE), targets the mixed groups of *lumad*, Muslims and Christian children.

Harnessing Opportunities for Muslim Education (HOME) projects are focused mainly on Muslim communities.

In Southern Mindanao alone, BEAM targets improving education access to 16 isolated *lumad* and Muslim communities by putting up similar tribal schools to reach out to over 2,000 children.

Aside from Sitio Maluan in Marilog, the project includes three more barangays in Davao City; five more in Caraga and Tarragona towns of Davao Oriental; four in the towns of Matanao, Magsaysay and Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur; and four more in the towns of Laak, Maragusan and Pantukan in Compostela Valley.

BEAM is also being carried out in Central Mindanao and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, where the project is assisting 20 pilot madaris (Islamic schools) to acquire DepEd accreditation.

After six and a half years, the project will soon be turned over to the DepEd and local government.

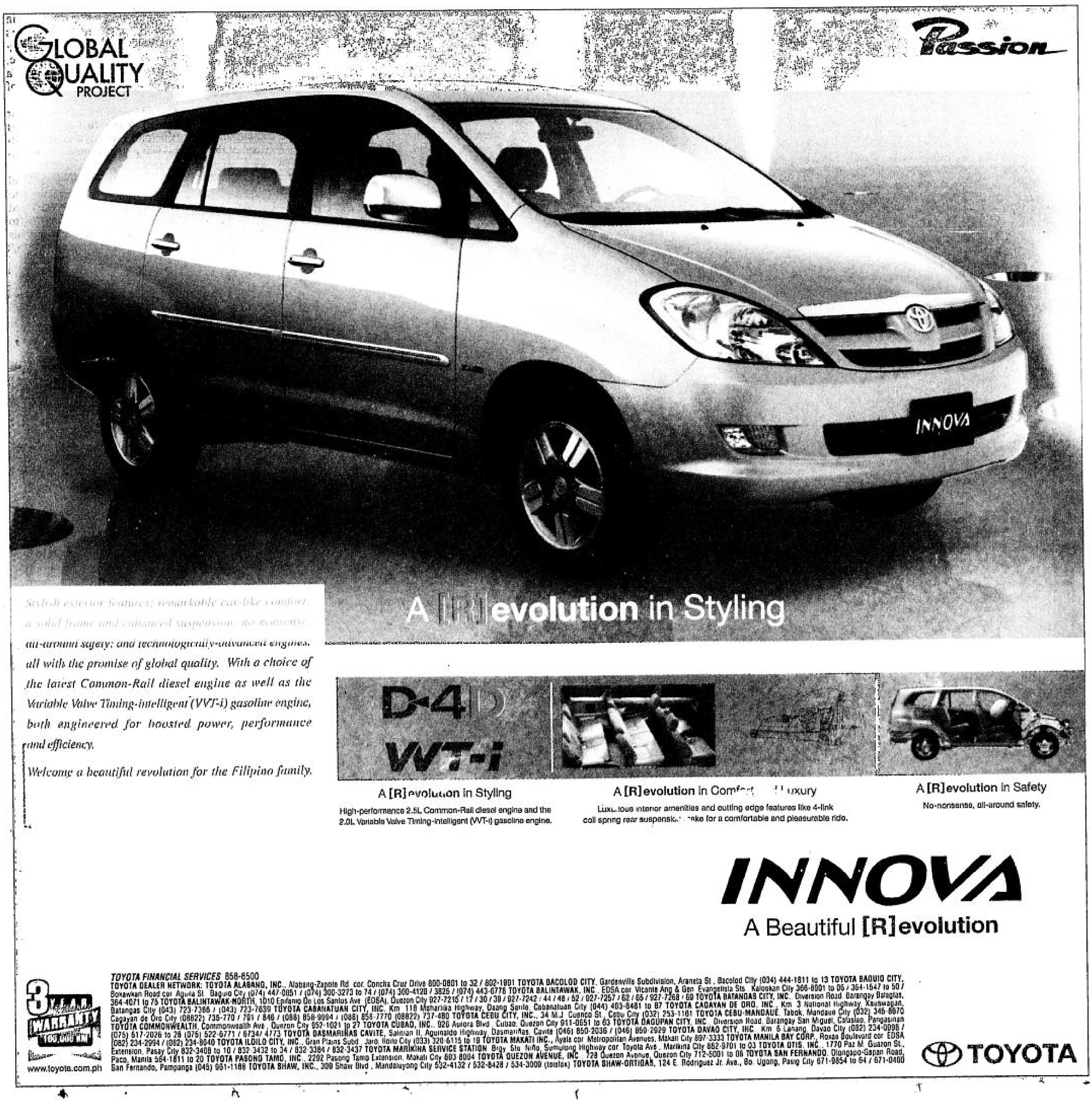
For the first phase, the Australian government, poured in A$6.2 million (P225 million) for strengthening the project's administrative and management systems.

Another A$21.6 million (P775 million) was poured into the second phase, which started in June last year and will end in May 2008.

Aside from improving access of isolated communities to education, BEAM's second phase seeks to improve teachers' training and support indigenous materials development, among others, says Walsh.

Through the BEAM, lumad folk and Moro communities will have access not only to basic education, but also to livelihood opportunities, he says.

Comforted by the thought that she no longer have to cross rivers just to go to school, Naning wipes her eyes. Her classmates perform the dance of the tribe. The *kudlong*'s haunting melody echoes through the whole place.



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TOYOTA

Sports proves the disabled can

From page A1

THE PHYSICALLY challenged enjoy the sportsfest specially staged for the handicapped at the Cuneta Astrodome. Participants include the Pilipinong may Kapansanan Foundation. This special olympics started in 1983 sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. RAFFY LERMA

Similarly, in volleyball, the ball was also rolled under the net, with the players following the movement of the ball from the chimes coming from objects inserted in the spheroid.

Each team consisted of six players. Three totally blind players were seated on the ground near the net while their three other teammates—either partially blind or of low vision—stood behind them.

Like sighted players, they scrambled for the ball, rolling on the floor if necessary.

Teamwork, patience

The crowd cheered by stomping their feet, making hand signals and clapping their hands.

"You'd be surprised at their enthusiasm to learn the game," Gloria Jamandre, who teaches orientation and mobility at PSD, said, beaming at the performance of her students.

Jamandre said the two events had been adapted for the visually impaired, to add to their physical fitness program.

The competition is also intended to train them on the values of sportsmanship, teamwork, and even patience.

Body language

Ping-pong and volleyball were added to another event called goal ball, a game played by two teams of three players each, which has been part of the International Para-Olympics.

The game is played by rolling the ball from one end of the court to the other. The team which fails to stop the ball, which also has a chime, loses the game.

The sportsfest did not lack the usual cheering contests, obstacle relays, modern dance competition and calisthenics.

A sign sports show performed by three blind boys interpreted the sport in body language.

One more dance

The visually-impaired girls carried poms-poms, which they raised at a cue from their team leaders.

Trendy teeners in mini-skirts, knee-high socks and midriffs that showed off belly buttons begged to be allowed to dance again even after they had already been declared winners in the modern dance competition.

"Ma'am, just one dance," one of the girls, in frantic sign language, implored Prof. Yolanda Capulong, principal of the Philippine School for the Deaf (PSD).

Shaping character

Capulong said the sports festival was important in molding the characters of those with disabilities.

"Values have to be taught consciously through actions and actual practice," Capulong said.

She said that without experiencing teamwork, honesty and patience—which are important in sports—these values would remain "abstract in the minds of the impaired."

The special Olympics was started in 1983 upon the sponsorship of the Knights in Columbus in Pasay City.

The Thomasites

This year, the festival included participants from the Pilipinong May Kapansanan Foundation and the Pasay City Special Education Center at the Jose Rizal Elementary School.

The sports festival began with special athletes from the Philippine School for the Deaf and Blind, the first school for the disabled in Asia, which was established in 1907 by the Thomasites.

The Thomasites were a group of American public school teachers who arrived in the Philippines in 1900 and established the public school system in the country.

School splits in two

The school, however, was split in two—a separate school for the deaf and another school for the blind—to give the disabled some dignity, according to Capulong.

"It had seemed that the deaf was also blind, but that is not the case. Sometimes, one is deaf, but not necessarily blind. And the blind are not necessarily deaf," Capulong said.

Songs kept hope alive at Barracks 19

From page A1

60th anniversary of the liberation of Los Baños from Japanese forces.

"The young Jesuits were the entertainers of Vatican City. We composed about 24 songs while we were here. In those last days, we had this one..." he said before launching into the song.

"Vatican City" was actually Barracks 19, where priests, nuns and missionaries were held by their Japanese captors. Reuter was then 25.

The commemoration was a historic reunion for Reuter and the Filipino guerrillas and American soldiers who rescued him and the other internees during a dawn raid on Feb. 23, 1945. Most of the prisoners had been languishing in the camp since 1942.

Among those present at the ceremony were Lt. Col. Gustavo Ingles of the Hunters-ROTC and Rev. Ken Fuller of the 511th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The two had led the raid on the 250-strong Japanese detachment.

Reuter came to the Philippines as a missionary before World War II. After the war, he returned to the United States to be ordained a priest.

He eventually came back to the Philippines and taught at the Ateneo de Manila. The Senate awarded him honorary Filipino citizenship in 1996.

Prison memories

In a speech, Reuter, now 87, recalled his days as a prisoner and a member of the camp's burial crew.

He was one of 2,147 people held in Baker Hall, a gymnasium at the then Philippine Agricultural College, now known as the University of the Philippines Los Baños.

The town, then part of a vast US military reservation, was a stronghold of the Japanese Imperial Army.

"When this area was a concentration camp, some things happened that were very painful, and some things happened that were very good," Reuter said.

A part of his memories was how a young American was shot dead by their Japanese captors and how he and the other members of the burial crew dug a grave for the body:

"One morning, just before dawn ... we saw a young American ... just outside the front row of barbed wire. He was rolling on the ground, shot through the shoulder. His shirt was [bloodied], but he was hanging on to a bundle."

A Japanese officer named Konichi approached and berated the injured American for supposedly trying to escape. Then he ordered his soldiers to take the man to a small furrow just outside the camp.

Moments later, Reuter and the others heard a gunshot,

"When they gave us the body, [we saw that] the hole was small in the back and very big in the front. It blew out the [whole] brain."

Reuter and another American proceeded to dig the grave. But they were too weak to dig and had to bury the man merely two feet under.

He asked the other prisoner why the man had tried to flee at dawn, "when he would not have a ghost of a chance."

His fellow prisoner retorted: "He was not shot trying to break out. He was shot trying to get back in."

Reuter then realized that the man had gathered rice, coconuts and bananas outside the camp and was trying to bring the food back to his wife and child.

"The Japanese thought [he was taking the food out] so they gave us the bundle. We gave it to his wife. The rice was soaked with his blood."

Keeping the faith

Reuter said the horrors at the concentration camp gave the prisoners more reason to hang on to their Christian faith. Even some of the Japanese came close to becoming "saints," he said.

"In this camp, we had hardships," he said. "But we also had forgiveness, compassion, charity, love. The Gospel: Pray for those who hurt you."

Konichi, after being captured, put on trial and subsequently convicted for war crimes, converted to Catholicism, Reuter said.

It was a holy end to the Japanese officer:

When he was sentenced to hang in Los Baños, he was baptized and was given communion.

With the rope around his neck, while he was kicking and gasping for air, a priest below him "anointed his hands" before he breathed his last.

"So he went straight to Heaven, without even a stopover in purgatory," Reuter said. "I think it was because of the prayers of the nuns."

According to Reuter, there were two main reasons why not too many Japanese officers survived the war: the Japanese did not surrender, and the Americans never took prisoners.

"Even if a Japanese came out with his hands up, the Americans would shoot him dead. Because too often, the surrendering Japanese was carrying hand grenades under his armpits," he said.

The captain's wife

A few years after the war, a priest from the camp by the name of Father Greer had a chance to travel to Tokyo, Reuter said, recalling yet another story.

Greer had become friends with the Japanese captain during his incarceration. The captain had since died, and armed with a picture of the captain's wife, Greer set out to look for his next of kin.

He managed to locate the members of the captain's immediate family. "They were so grateful to hear any word about him because all they had received was a telegram saying: 'Missing in action.' Father Greer told them every good thing [about him]," Reuter said.

But Greer wondered where the captain's wife was. So the family led him to another house, where a nun opened the door.

Greer asked the nun about the captain's wife. And the nun smiled and said: "I am the wife of the captain."

What happened was, Reuter said, the captain's wife went to a Catholic school after her husband was killed. She eventually became a member of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart.

Reuter said he had the chance to meet the nun when she traveled to the Philippines to visit the place where her husband had died.

Great adventure

Despite the difficulties he faced as a prisoner, Reuter said he never gave up on life and tried to learn lessons from the nightmare.

"Those who were not here during the war expect us, the internees, to remember Los Baños as a place of horror. But it's not that way. It was a great adventure, much more exciting than studying philosophy and theology," he said.

He recounted how, after thinking that their Japanese captors had pulled out of the camp, he and the other prisoners lost nearly all hope when their tormentors came back minutes later.

After that setback, he said, what they pinned their hopes on was the sound of American airplanes droning over them on the way to Manila.

"We did have hardships," he conceded. "But we also maintained courage, and hope, and the joy of living. And when the paratroopers dropped on us, the thrill of survival was magnificent!"

Inspiration

Sen. Richard Gordon, co-chair of the committee in charge of the anniversary celebration, and US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone led the commemoration of what is regarded as one of the greatest airborne operations of all time.

During the program, Reuter and his fellow prisoners—now numbering only 18—received commemorative badges. Gordon also presented a Senate resolution to Reuter.

Sponsored by Gordon and signed by Senate President Franklin Drilon, the resolution honors Reuter for "leading and inspiring others in all that he taught, wrote, said and did, to believe and live in a life of vision, of leadership, and of dignity."

Gordon said in the resolution that Reuter—who is well known for his work helping orphans and street children—was a steady source of inspiration for all Filipinos of all faiths.

"[He] was born an American and yet he lived his life as a Filipino and for Filipinos. Though he has received many awards... such honors fail to truly capture the immensity of his sacrifices for the Filipino people," Gordon said.

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Maxi take in Minimi deal

From page A1

of land at the former Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

On March 18, 2003, the Armed Forces received 402 Minimis from Belgian Fabrique Nacional-Herstal (FNH), costing a total of P117.4 million.

The guns were priced at $5,088.20 each.

The weapons made their local public debut in March 2003 in a parade marking the 106th anniversary of the Army.

Comparatively, FNH sold 3,979 Minimi units to the US government for $9.5 million, or $2,401.50 per unit.

Based on documents obtained by the INQUIRER, this would suggest that the AFP Minimis were costlier by $2,687.70 each, or by as much as P150,511.20 per unit, at the exchange rate of P56 to a dollar.

"The Philippines is a victim of corporate graft," the INQUIRER source alleged.

He added: "Our foreign affairs office should demand from FNH a refund of P60 million."

No overprice

Maj. Gen. Reynaldo Rivera, deputy chief of staff for Capability, Materiel and Technology Development (J9) and chair of the AFP Modernization Program Management Office, said the purchase. was more expensive because it also included accessories, such as spare barrels, cleaning kits, even a technical manual.

"The US bought a basic firearm. The AFP purchased the firearm with accessories, which explains the difference in the price," Rivera said in a telephone interview.

Randy Limjoco, FNH representative in the Philippines, backed Rivera's statement.

Best deal

A long-time military supplier, Limjoco said FNH offered the "most cost effective" deal, which included countertrade and technology transfer through the production of Minimi parts at the government arsenal in Limay, Bataan.

He also gave the INQUIRER an itemized listing of the accessories and their corresponding costs.

He said the cost of $5,088.20 included the costs of many other items, from spare barrel ($1,154), carrying case for spare barrel, sling, and technical manual for every six units of Saw, to cleaning kit, multi-purpose scraping and cleaning tools, freight and insurance, final acceptance tests in Belgium, and 1-year warranty.

FNH defends contract

But even with the accessories and other expenses, which total $1,825.89, the AFP Minimi was still costlier by $860.81, the documents showed.

In an interview with the INQUIRER, Limjoco also spoke about how FNH shouldered the "enormous cost of airfreighting" the firearms to Manila.

The freight and insurance cost of $124 per weapon was also added to the price of the Minimi, according to the itemized list that Limjoco himself had prepared.

Inferior ammunition

The Minimi was also hounded by other problems.

A senior Army colonel described the Minimi as "a good weapon but less efficient because we are using inferior ammunition."

A Marine colonel said the AFP also had to contend with other problems, such as lack of metallic links and the special magazine box custom-made for the Minimi.

"So we had to scout for links from our American friends [who are here for the Balikatan]," the colonel said.

Of the 402 Minimis, 326 units were distributed to the Army, while 76 were given to the Marines.

Dual-fed gun

The source also said the Minimis were in "storage" from 2003 to 2004 "as [they] cannot be used due to non-availability of locally manufactured ammunitions, metallic links and a special plastic magazine box."

THE WELL-DRESSED soldiers never go out on patrol without it—a belt full of bullets or bandolier. AFP

IN THE KNOW

Easy to use

THE 5.56MM XM249 SAW was developed by Fabrique Nationale of Belgium and first unveiled in 1974. The FN Minimi is used by many nations, for its ease to use and clean. This weapon is known as the FN Minimi in Europe, M249 in the US, and the C9 in Canada.

Manufacturer: Fabrique Nationale Herstal

Country: Belgium.

Designation: Squad Automatic Weapon

Operation: Gas-operated, rotating bolt

Rate of fire: 700-1,000 rounds per minute

Caliber: 5.56 mm

Type: Light machine gun

Length: 1,040 mm

Weight: 7.1 kg

Barrel: 465 mm

Feed system: 200 rounds belt or 30 rounds M16 style magazine

Modes of fire: Safe, fully automatic

Sight: Adjustable iron sight

Safety: Two position crossbolt

SOURCE: HTTP://WWW.GLOBAL-MILITARY.INFO/WEAPONS/

Countering this, Rivera said the Minimi was "dual fed," meaning it could be fired using the 30-round M16-type magazine, or using the ammo belts with disintegrating links that are either free or packaged in 200-round boxes or 200-round soft pouches.

The metallic links are ring-like gadgets that serve to link a series of bullets to form a belt, or the bandolier that soldiers sling across their chests when they go on operations.

Rivera also said that "consumables," like ammunition and metallic links, could not be purchased under the modernization program, which stipulates that modernization funds would be used exclusively to buy brand-new equipment or upgrade old ones.

Thus, he said, bullets for the Minimi had to be procured through the usual AFP procurement system.

Same winning bidder

Limjoco said there were problems with ammunition and metallic links, but these had been remedied.

In April 2003, a month after the 402 Minimi units were delivered, Limjoco said he wrote then Chief of Staff Gen. Narciso Abaya about the ammunition.

"I told them, 'hey guys, you need ammo'," Limjoco said.

The Army started the bidding process only in June 2003, according to Limjoco, who also emerged as the winning bidder. He said he delivered one million rounds of ammunition in June 2004.

Limjoco said the bullets did not come from FNH but from Armscor, Philippines, which he also represents.

Spread all around

"You see, that is the advantage with the Minimi. You can source from other companies. There is no monopoly," he said.

The problem of ammunition would be addressed permanently once the government arsenal starts to manufacture the SS 109 ammo for the Minimi, under a technology transfer scheme with FNH, Limjoco said.

FNH has started conducting training for Minimi armorers and operators.

But as early as June 2003, with the ammunition problem still unsolved, top FNH executives began making courtesy calls on General Abaya and other AFP top brass for the follow-on Phase II purchase of an additional 1,700 Minimi units.

On March 23, 2004, Rivera wrote Tony Andrews, FN Hersal Regional Director for Southeast Asia, for a quotation.

"It is a repeat order, so there is no need for bidding," Rivera told the INQUIRER.

Also, Rivera said the FNH had agreed to sell the M249 Minimi at the 2003 price of $5,088.20.

On July 13, Rivera, as head of the negotiating team, signed a contract for Minimi units amounting to P593.3 million.

Friendship contract?

Abaya signed the contract on Sept. 6, and the documents were forwarded to the defense department, where it is undergoing review by lawyers.

What does it take to win a contract? Do acts of public relations or philantrophy, or other things, help?

Sources said Limjoco enjoys the friendship of President Macapagal-Arroyo because his parents, Romeo and Helen Limjoco, were close friends of Ms Arroyo's parents.

Some Limjoco close relatives, the sources said, also went to school with Ms Arroyo at the Assumption Convent.

The Limjocos, according to other sources, also came into the good graces of former President Joseph Estrada, donating assorted medical equipment to Loi Estrada's medical charity programs.

In November 1999, the Limjocos donated a dialysis machine just three months after Ms Estrada requested for a unit. A year later, the family also donated medical equipment to the AFP Medical Center.

Interest in the Minimi was partly fueled by Estrada's release of P5.4 billion for the AFP modernization program.

From Reyes to Abaya

From a chronology prepared by Limjoco, the Minimi contract would seem to typify a transaction that passes through the hands of officials as they climb up the AFP hierarchy.

According to the document, the AFP expresed renewed interest in the Minimi weapon system during the term of Gen. Angelo Reyes as chief of staff in 2000. The first bidding was held in September 2001, with Abaya as chair of the bidding committee and Brig. Gen. Generoso Senga as vice chair.

In May 2002, Reyes, already defense secretary, ordered Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu to "issue the notice of award" to FN Herstal, according to the documents.

The first 402 Minimi units were delivered in March 2003 when Reyes was still defense secretary.

In June 2003, Limjoco began negotiating for the additional 1,700 Minimi units. By this time, Abaya had assumed the chief of staff post. Abaya would approve the second contract for Minimis in September 2004.

These additional Minimis were also ordered for the Army, which Senga now commands.

Tiny video watches give Israel deadly edge

From page A1

in use for nearly a year in the Israeli military's attack helicopters, helping pilots identify and strike Palestinian militants within seconds.

The technology, which is also used in tanks and armored vehicles, was a closely guarded secret until the company that developed it offered reporters a rare glimpse at the system this week.

"We are fulfilling the science fiction movies that we see," said Itzhak Beni, chief executive of the Elisra Group's Tadiran Electronic Systems and Tadiran Spectralink companies.

Beni said the communications system has "shortened tremendously" the amount of time it takes to identify and strike a target.

"Before it was minutes, 10 to 12 minutes. Now it's a matter of seconds," he said.

Israel agreed to halt its policy of "targeted killings" of Palestinian militant leaders under an informal ceasefire declared last month by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas.

But after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed five Israelis last week, Israel said it would consider resuming the practice.

No comment

The Israeli Army declined to comment about the new technology. But Israeli security officials have acknowledged they can launch air strikes so swiftly that targeted militants no longer have time to flee, in contrast to the early days of fighting in late 2000. They cite improvements in many areas, not any single technology.

The screen being field-tested by a limited number of foot soldiers is about 3 inches wide, and weighs just a few ounces. Code-named V-Rambo, it's attached to the wrist by a velcro strap.

WRIST monitor allows soldiers in the field to see overhead views of the video captured by unmanned aircraft. AP

The LCD screens display color video that is beamed directly from drones in real time at 30 frames per second—the same rate as broadcast TV.

Attack helicopters have been fitted with five-inch screens. The "Video Receiver" systems also include small reception units that are installed on the vehicles and helicopters or carried in soldiers' vests.

No just a novelty

The new technology is considered much more than a novelty.

Military drones have been used by Israel since the early 1980s. But until recently, the information they gathered was sent to a ground command center that interpreted it and then shared it with forces in the field. The Tadiran systems allow the information to be received instantly by the various forces, company officials said.

The drones are still controlled by a ground command center, but the various forces have the ability to guide the camera to meet their specific needs.

This real-time information has enabled Israel to perfect its ability to attack from the sky. During more than four years of fighting with the Palestinians, Israeli helicopter air strikes have killed dozens of militants.

The system can also greatly reduce combat casualties by allowing troops "to see everything that is behind the hill and around the corner," Beni said. At the same time, the company said the improved information can help troops minimize civilian casualties in the crowded refugee camps and city streets where Israeli troops and Palestinian militants often clash.

Joystick warfare

Tadiran only recently received clearance to show the system to the public. It plans to unveil the system formally next week at a Tel Aviv conference on urban warfare and "low intensity" conflict.

The company also showed off a system resembling a video game that allows soldiers to control unmanned ground vehicles. The green console has a small flat screen and two joysticks, one on each side. One joystick controls the vehicle, while the other controls the items on the vehicle, such as its cameras.

The computer screen shows other information, including video footage from drones and detailed maps of the battlefield.

The technology is expected to be part of the "Gladiator" unmanned ground vehicles being developed by the US Marines. The company announced the Gladiator contract, which includes partners Carnegie Mellon University and United Defense Industries Inc., last month. *AP*

PDI PHOTO FILE

AS A HUSBAND, Boy Negro was a man of few words.

Boy Negro, Bicolana wife 'met' thru text messaging

From page A1

Laden but somehow had the impression that he was a bad man.

She met her future husband—whom police call "Boy Negro"—after one month of exchanging text messages with him starting January 2003.

After another two months, she accepted his proposal to marry him in Muslim rites.

Today, Daza's world has been turned upside down.

Introduction

The man she had come to love is in police custody, accused of being a member of the Abu Sayyaf and of involvement in the Valentine's Day bombing of a passenger bus in Makati, which killed four people and wounded more than 100.

"I did not know him until Ted showed up one day at Del's Bakery in Western Taguig where I worked," Daza recalled. "He asked me who was Cyril and he introduced himself as my text mate."

A Bicolana, Daza stopped schooling in her third year at Mambulo Nuevo High School in Camarines Sur because of economic difficulties. She started working as a sales attendant in 2002 at Del's Bakery.

Silent man

For two months, her fiancée taught her the different prayers of Muslims. And they would pray together every day.

Daza said she fell in love with Ted because she felt totally secure with him and because he was a man of few words.

They were married at his house on Maharlika Street, Taguig, on March 6, 2004.

Daza said she respected her husband's silence on many personal things.

Asked if she knew the Muslim name of her husband and immediate relatives, she confessed that she only knew him as Kim Ted Santos.

Her husband's aunt with whom they lived for nine months was known to her as just "Auntie."

Daza said she had not even met his parents.

On Monday, police raided their house.

She said she had no feelings whatsoever about what might happen to the man she knew as Ted.

Her only concern now, she said, was the future of their baby.

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Judge jumps into trial of Tan tax case

Magistrate dispenses with pre-trial procedures to start hearings Friday

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

AFTER more than a decade, the P25-billion tax evasion case against one of the country's richest men is finally going to trial.

Marikina Metropolitan Trial Court Judge Alex Ruiz set Friday this week as the first trial day for the case against tobacco and beer tycoon Lucio Tan.

The judge has terminated the pre-trial proceedings that had been marked by debates about the pre-marking of about a truckload of documentary evidence.

Pre-marking was earlier conducted after the defense asked the court to follow a recent Supreme Court procedure. Traditionally, evidence was marked as the trial progressed.

But Ruiz decided on Friday to go back to the old way as he ordered that exhibits or documents "shall no longer be referred to the Branch Clerk of Court for marking but shall be marked in the course of the (trial)."

He said he believed that "both parties are interested in the speedy trial of these cases."

State Prosecutor Edna Valenzuela said she considered the order to be advantageous to the prosecution.

No objection

Though he did not object to the order, defense lawyer Estelito Mendoza told reporters they would wait and see "how expeditious the proceedings (would be)."

Mendoza, who also defended former President Joseph Estrada in his impeachment trial, said the SC has recommended the pre-marking of evidence to speed up trials.

"Perhaps we would have already retired by the time this case is resolved," Mendoza said in Filipino.

Based on the defense's estimate, the prosecution will present at least 51,415 documents and other evidence.

During deliberations on how pre-marking would be done, prosecutors proposed that it be done once a week. It expressed belief that the procedure would be finished in six months.

The defense disagreed, however saying that with that pace, pre-marking would take three years.

To end the debate, the judge decided to judge mark the exhibits as these are presented during the course of the trial.

The government started the case against Tan in 1993.

On March 22, 1999, Ruiz, who was hearing the case, dismissed it with finality and later turned down the government's motion for reconsideration.

On July 13 last year, the SC reversed the dismissal and ordered the Marikina court to reopen the case.

During his arraignment on Jan. 7, Tan pleaded not guilty to charges that he and officers of his Fortune Tobacco Corporation used nine "dummy" marketing companies to avoid paying P25.6 billion in taxes between 1990 and 1992.

Fire gobbles up hardware store, 4 houses in Makati

FIREMEN are silhouetted against Makati's night sky, lit up by flames consuming a hardware store and a cluster of houses in Barangay Sta. Cruz. REM ZAMORA

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE MORNING after a fire razed Nenita Perez's home, she could only gape in disbelief at the blue gate, what remained of her family's house.

"It has been our home for the past 14 years," she said teary-eyed, oblivious of scavengers sifting through the burnt remnants.

The fire that destroyed Perez's house and three other residences on Malolos Street, Brgy. Sta. Cruz, Makati City, the other night started at a hardware store on J.P. Rizal Street at 10:40 p.m. The fire was put out at 1:18 a.m. yesterday.

The store, owned by a certain Isabel Chua, was just behind Perez's house.

Cause yet unknown

Makati fire investigators do not know yet what caused the fire. The hardware store was empty at the time, FO2 Wilfredo Nardo told the INQUIRER yesterday.

The store's security guard could not even get inside because it was locked, added Nardo.

When the guard saw the blaze, which started at the middle of the store, he ran to the Bantay Bayan station a few meters away, Nardo said.

Paint and lumber inside the store caused the fire to spread quickly, he added.

A neighbor told the INQUIRER that the store's wall was made of wood, causing the fire to spread to nearby houses that were also made of light and flammable materials.

P5M in damage

Three firemen suffered minor injuries and damage was placed at P5 million.

Firemen recovered from the scene P32,000 in cash, a .38 caliber pistol and some pieces of jewelry, which were handed over to the store owner's son.

Perez's family was left only with a computer, piano and two television sets. All their clothes were burned.

Ian Quito, another fire victim, managed to save his children's clothes, a refrigerator and a TV set. He and his family will live temporarily at his uncle's house in Muntinlupa.

But Perez has to stay in what is left of her house. "I have no choice. I have three kids, two of them are still studying," she said.

'Worm' threatens computers

By Tina G. Santos

A NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) official has warned Internet users against a mean 'worm' spreading in cyberspace.

Worms are programs that replicate themselves from system to system without the use of a host file. This is in contrast to viruses, which require the spreading of an infected host file.

The variant "BagleD1-L" is a Trojan horse, a file that contains a malicious code that when triggered would cause the loss, or even theft, of data. It can damage antivirus programs, the NBI source said.

"It will try to turn off your antivirus or firewall program, thus making you vulnerable even to older viruses," the official from the NBI's Anti-Fraud and Computer Crimes Division said.

But the source was quick to add that the worm can be prevented from infecting computers by careful handling of e-mail, especially those from strangers.

Atienza raises alarm over summer diseases

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza has directed the city health department to monitor the spread of diseases that usually accompany the summer months.

He said that based on experience, cases of sore eyes, influenza, measles, chickenpox and heat stroke rise during summer. But City Hall has yet to release statistics on these diseases.

"The key to keeping cases of such diseases to minimum levels is monitoring and prevention," Atienza said.

He advised residents to immediately seek treatment if they exhibit symptoms of such diseases.

In line with this, city health officer Dr. Lorraine Sanchez said they had stepped up information dissemination, particularly measures to prevent contracting the diseases.

She said handwashing topped the list. *Tina G. Santos*

Cabbies used to distribute counterfeit bills

By Luige A. del Puerto

POLICE said they had busted the distribution arm of a group that had "almost perfected" the printing of fake P500 bills.

The group sold counterfeit P500, P200 and P50 bills mostly to taxi drivers, according to Supt. William Macavinta, chief of the Northern Police District's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"This group has almost perfected the printing of fake P500 bills," Macavinta said. Only very close and careful scrutiny revealed the bills were fake.

The CIDG arrested on Thursday in Barangay Bitik in Valenzuela City, Tony Espeleta, 42, and Jabiguero Rodolfo, 49.

The suspects, who were presented to the media in Camp Crame yesterday, reportedly yielded 40 pieces of counterfeit P500, 45 fake P50 and 20 fake P200 bills when nabbed.

The fake P500 bills had watermarks and fine security prints-signs of sophisticated printing.

"Even the quality of paper used is very good," said National Capital Region-CIDG deputy chief Supt. Manuel Pinera.

"But the number 500 in the security mark is a little obvious, unlike those in a real bill that are almost imperceptible," Pinera said.

Espeleta and Rodolfo did not print the bills themselves, the police said. The fake bills were only brought to Espeleta's home.

One of the suspects got away, Macavinta said.

Police said Espeleta and Rodrigo were distributors of a group that had expanded its operations to Cavite and Laguna.

The two suspects told the INQUIRER that a P500 bill was sold for P150 to P200, a P200 bill for P75 to P100 and a P50 bill, P20 to P25.

Police said the group sold most bills to taxi drivers, who would switch them for real money from unwary passengers.

Macavinta said, "If a passenger gives (a taxi driver) a P500 bill, (he) would get it, replace it with a counterfeit, which he gives to the passenger, saying he does not have change."

Water 'jeepney' plies the highs and lows of Pasig River

By Margaux C. Ortiz

FOR HALF a century, his boats linked up two cities, with his *bangkeros* (boatmen) ferrying passengers from Makati to Mandaluyong and back again.

Jose Santiago, 61, has seen the sun rise a thousand times over his beloved Pasig River since he inherited the ferry boat business from his parents-in-law 43 years ago.

Witness to change

He has also witnessed the river's transformation from a pristine wonderland celebrated by countless Filipino poets, into a smelly, dying body of water, the bane of a growing metropolis.

But Santiago is not discouraged. In fact, he wants his children and his children's children to continue the business.

"I have always had an affinity with water," said Santiago, sitting near a makeshift collection booth by the river.

A native of Makati, Santiago said he had wanted to join the Navy when he was younger. But marriage at the age of 18 to a girl from the other side of the river prompted him to abandon the dream.

His 17-year-old wife's parents then passed on their ferry boat business, started in 1948, to the young couple.

The young ferry boat operator quickly learned how to run the business, buying a new boat that was more passenger-friendly and taking charge of fare collection.

In 1962, when he inherited the business, Santiago's family got the right to operate four lines of ferry service through a public bidding conducted by Makati and Mandaluyong.

For P2,000, Santiago and his relatives were allowed to operate from Vergara, Hulo, Buwayang Bato and Barangka in Mandaluyong.

5-centavo ride

"Our boatmen back then had to use oars to ferry the passengers in 10-seater boats," Santiago said, adding that the fare then was only five centavos. A total of 150 passengers daily earned Santiago P14 a week.

The oars were abandoned as the boats were outfitted with motors in 1965.

Santiago said the number of passengers crossing the river everyday increased dramatically over the years, from a few hundreds in the 1960s to thousands in the late 1990s.

"We now charge P2.50 per passenger, almost the same amount we used to earn daily in the early days," Santiago said with an amused smile.

He added that their income also rose to P500 per day, excluding expenses for gasoline, maintenance, and the two boatmen's salaries.

The boat business, Santiago said, supplemented his salary as a government worker and helped his four children finish college.

"Aside from earning money, I also tell my children that this is our way of serving the community," he said with a hint of pride.

"Because most of the people who cross the river work in Makati's Central Business District, we often see men and women dressed to the nines sitting beside ordinary folk," Santiago said. The Pasig River had its own "rush hour"—7:30 to 9 a.m. and 5 to 7 p.m.

Not worried

Santiago said he was not worried about the impending revival of the Pasig River ferry service later this year.

"The ferry service brings passengers from one section of the same side of the river to another, but never across," Santiago pointed out.

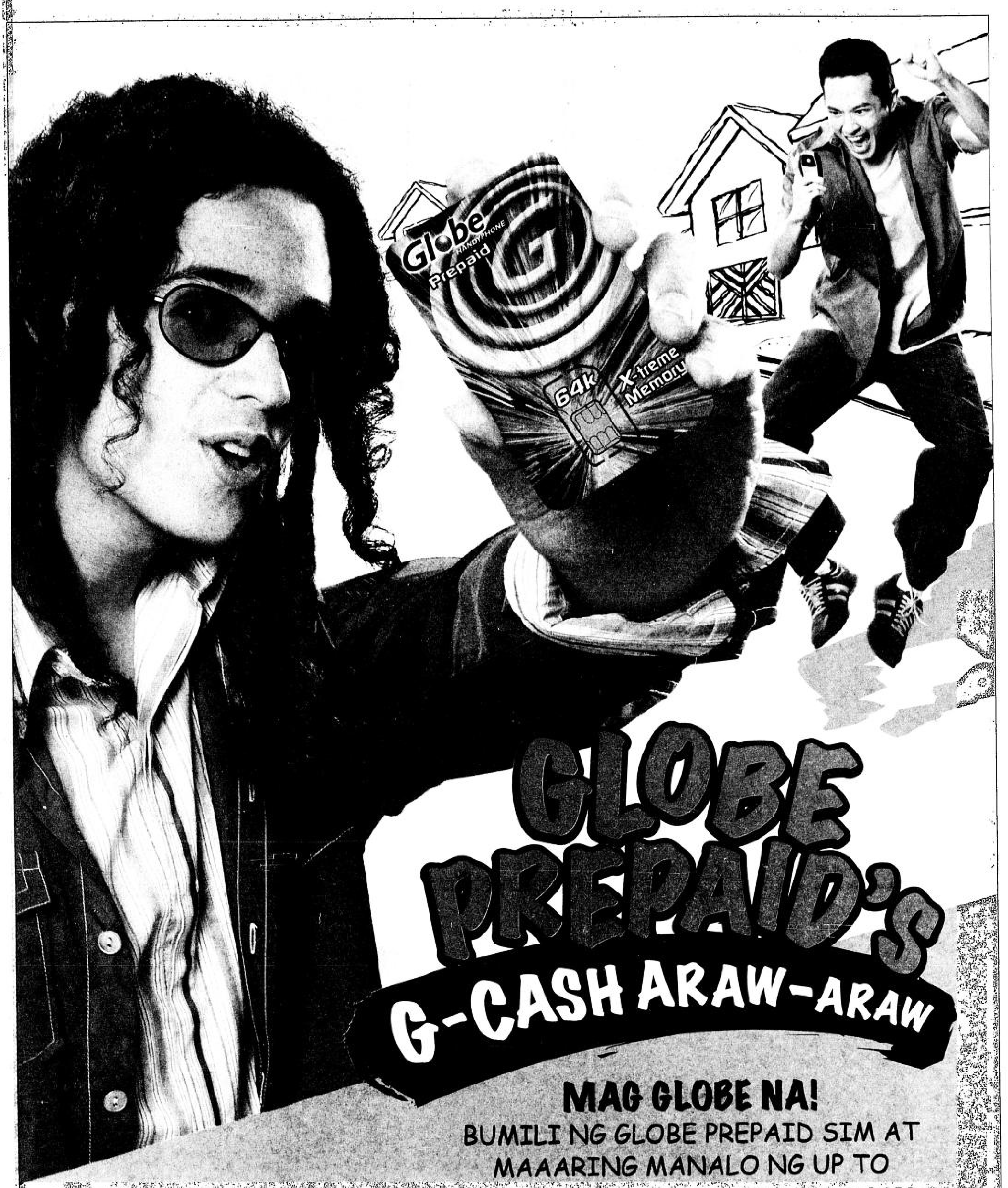
He added with a grin, "This business has even survived the Pasig River's transformation."

Santiago said when he was younger, the river was so cleat that women bathed fully clothed "to avoid peeping toms."

"Now the only things left in this dying river are janitor fish and our ferry boat," he said with a smile.

"This only shows that we are here to stay."

BOATMAN Jose Santiago has seen the Pasig River change through the years and has ferried thousands across the once fabled waterway. RUDY ESPERAS



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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

SPORTS TV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

BILLIARDS: 2005 San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Open; 5 p.m. and 8 p.m.; STAR Sports—Check out the semifinals and then finals in the inaugural leg of Asia's premier 9-Ball tournament in Singapore.

MOTOR SPORTS: 2005 F1 Foster's Australian Grand Prix; 10-a.m. (r- 9:30 p.m.); STAR Sports—Fasten your seatbelts as the first race of the season zooms into action.

BASKETBALL: NBA-Nuggets vs Clippers; 8:30 a.m. (r-9 p.m.); Bulls vs Bucks; 12 noon (r-5:30 p.m.); Solar Sports—Denver faces LA's other teams while the red-hot Bulls tangle with Milwaukee.

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

Southwoods claims PAL crown

Wins by two points over Canlubang

By Musong R. Castillo

BACOLOD—How sweet it is.

Southwoods won its second Philippine Airlines Interclub golf championship yesterday, achieving this one in impressive and memorable fashion over a truly championship field.

Tonlits Asistio provided the opening and Michael Bibat shut the door when Canlubang tried to crash the impending Southwoods party with 18th-hole gems that spelled the difference.

Asistio holed a knock-down shot with a 7-iron from 105 yards in the left rough for an eagle 3 on the final hole, and Bibat stuck a 3-wood from 230 yards to within six feet for birdie also on the last as Southwoods totaled 514 points to beat Canlubang by two.

The 15-year-old Asistio salvaged a level par 70 at the Marapara course here which was equivalent to 36 points in a starring role that underscored how Southwoods' youth development program bore fruit.

Former national champion Artemio Murakami also had a 36 while Bibat finished with a 29 ahead of the 28 of Miko Alejandro as the team posted a final-round 129. Laurence Negrido stumbled with a 21 and did not count.

Abe Rosal, Ronnie Torrecampo and JR Tanpinco all scored 33s for the Sugar Barons with Dave Hernandez chipping in 32 to complete their 131 for 512.

Jay Bayron, the high-point man for the Sugar Barons in Day 2, shot himself in the foot with a non-counting 27.

"This is a quality win," said Southwoods captain Thirdy Escaño, noting that the Carmona, Cavite-based club's initial success in 1999 came when both Canlubang and the then active Luisita boycotted the event.

Though he congratulated the Southwoods team while it was celebrating behind the 18th green, Canlubang non-playing captain Luigi Yulo branded the championship as "tainted" after the controversy that marred the third round in Binitin.

The two-point difference will remain an issue following two decisions by rulesman Jake Ayson in the third round that proved crucial in the end. The first ruling allowed Hanson So Jr. of Southwoods to avoid a two-stroke penalty for a lost ball and the second inflicted a two-stroke penalty on Canlubang ace Juvic Pagunsan.

After pulling even with Southwoods in the third round, defending champion Del Monte sputtered when it mattered most, managing just 113 built around Louie Dacudao's 33 and the 30 of Yoyong Velez to settle for third, 14 points behind at 498.

Wack Wack finished a distant fourth, shooting

S'WOODS/ A26

Que just a shot off in Thailand

PHUKET, Thailand—Angelo Que shot one of the day's best rounds of five-under-par 67 yesterday and moved into contention for his second Asian Tour title Saturday by tying for third after 54 holes of the $500,000 Thailand Open.

Que, winner of the Vietnam Open last year, had five birdies in a 33-34 card that boosted his three-round total to 208, just a stroke behind co-leaders Harmeet Kohlon of India and Scott Barr of Australia.

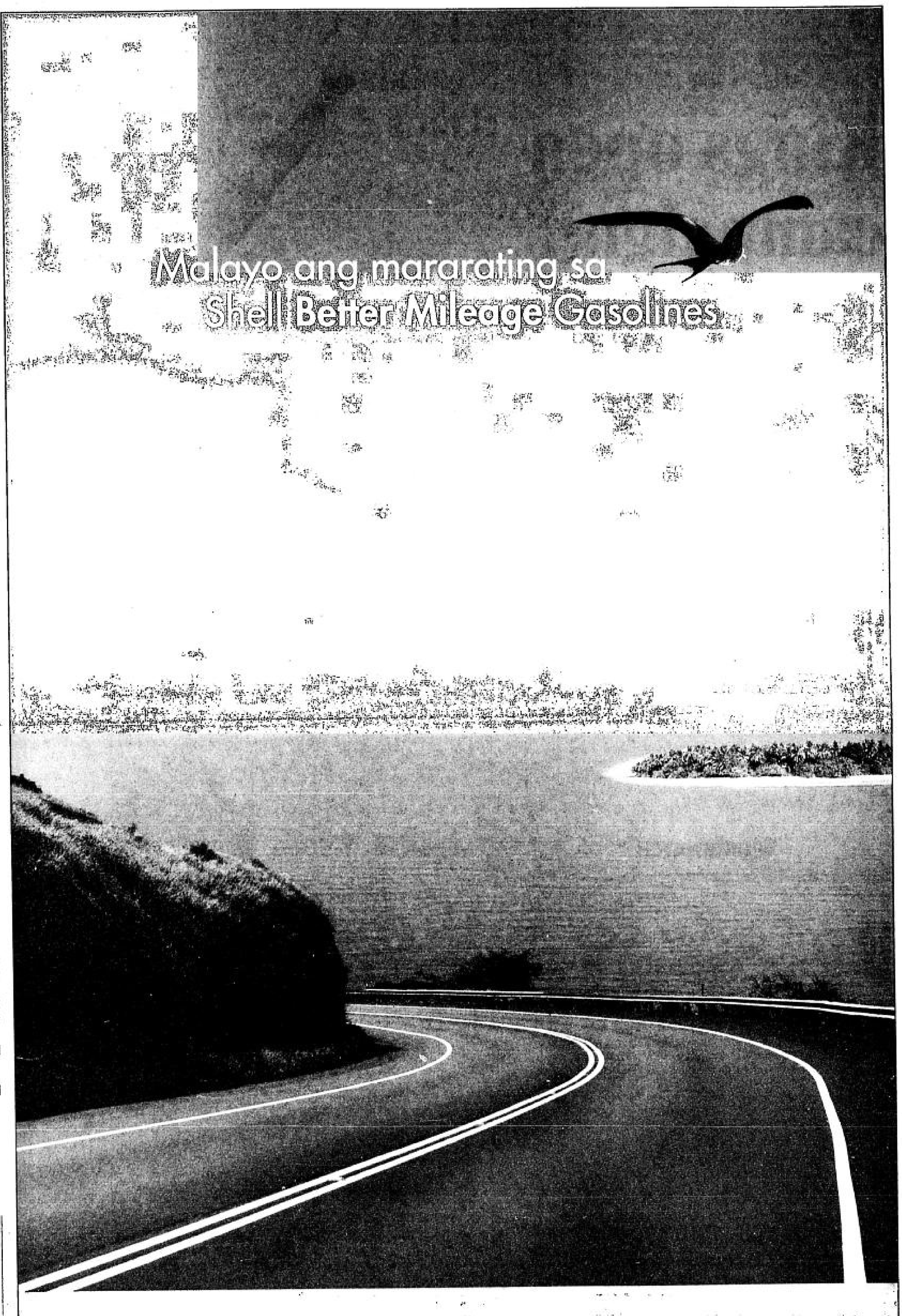
Kohlon had the other 67 for the day as he took the lead at 207 in a tie with Barr, who struggled with a 74.

Tied with Que were Jeev Milkha Singh of India (74) and Scott Strange of Australia (73).

Richard Lee of New Zealand was just two off the lead at 209 after a 69.

Cassius Casas, the other Filipino in the field, was in a seven-way tie for 47th after scoring 73 for 219.

Meanwhile, Jenny Rosales, who won last week's SBS Open in Hawaii, opened up with a two-over-par 74 in the first round of the MasterCard Classic in Mexico. South Korean Hee Won-han led with a 66.



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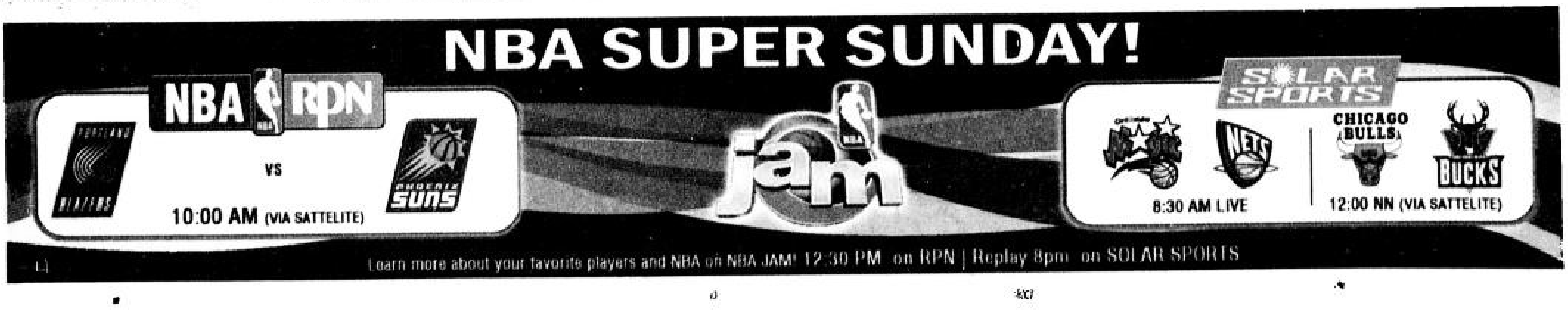

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Reyes, Bustamante breeze to quarters; Valle in semis

By June Navarro

SINGAPORE—Efren "Bata" Reyes and Francisco "Django" Bustamante easily crushed their elimination-round rivals to advance to the quarterfinals against dangerous foes yesterday in the first leg of the San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour in Suntec City here.

Gandy Valle, on the other hand, became the first Filipino to enter the semifinals at the expense of compatriot Lee Vann Corteza, 9-5.

Valle took the last three racks from a 6-5 count as the billiards ace from Davao City set up a semifinal meeting with the winner between Bustamante and Chinese-Taipei's Yang Ching-shun.

"It put a lot of pressure on me playing against a fellow Filipino but I hope Django wins," said Valle, who finished off Corteza with a carom shot using the second ball to sink the decisive ninth in the 14th rack.

Corteza, whose luck in the earlier rounds deserted him, got booted out of the $50,000 tour and settled for the $1,750 consolation prize.

Hardly breaking a sweat, Reyes ousted Vu Trong Kai of Vietnam, 9-5, in the second round to set up a duel against countryman Antonio Gabica, who cruised to a 9-2 triumph over Japan's Kunihiko Takahashi.

Gabica, a by-word in Cebu's billiards circuit, hopes to duplicate his recent conquest of Reyes to advance in the tournament organized and aired by ESPN-Star Sports.

The underdog Gabica scored the first of two upset wins "The Magician" suffered that knocked Reyes out of the Hope P1-million All-Filipino Billiards Open two weeks ago.

"I hope to recover my rhythm, otherwise, he could beat me again," said the 50-year-old Reyes, claiming that his timing was off despite a trouble-free passage into the quarterfinals.

Bustamante, who subdued Lin Di-Di of China, 9-4, before posting a runaway 9-2 win over Vietnam's Nguyen Thanh Nam, arranged a showdown against Yang, champion of the Hong Kong leg last year.

The Reyes-Gabica encounter and the match pitting Bustamante and Yang will highlight the schedule in the next phase.

It will be the first time since the tour's inception two years back that all the Filipino entries, led by Reyes and Bustamante, made it to the quarterfinals of this event offering a top prize of $10,000.

In the other second-round match, Chinese-Taipei's Wu Chia-ching booted out compatriot Chao Fong-pang, 9-8.

PBA 'FIESTA'

Kings open campaign vs Barakos

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:15 p.m.—FedEx vs Purefoods
6:30 p.m.—Barangay Ginebra vs Red Bull
(*Britama Arena Sports Mall, Jakarta, Indonesia*)
7:45 pm.—Talk 'N Text vs Shell

EXCEPT for San Miguel's Chris Burgess, no other foreign reinforcement made an impression at the opening of the PBA Fiesta Conference last Friday.

But 6-foot-9 Eddie Elisma is expected to boost Barangay Ginebra's stock as the Kings kick off their campaign for a third straight title against Red Bull at 6:30 p.m. today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Also slated today is the historic game between Talk 'N Text and Shell at 7:45 p.m. (Manila time) in Indonesia, the first official league match played overseas.

Elisma, a former Purefoods import, also played for leagues in China, Italy, Dominican Republic, Puerto Rico and Israel.

Purefoods, meanwhile, will parade 6-foot-8 Antonio Smith, a Michigan State product reportedly known for his tireless work ethics, when it faces a beefed-up FedEx squad earlier at 4:15 p.m. at the Big Dome.

FedEx is fielding Anthony "Pig" Miller, an NBA second round draft pick of the Golden State Warriors in 1994. The 6-foot-9 cager also once suited up for the Los Angeles Lakers.

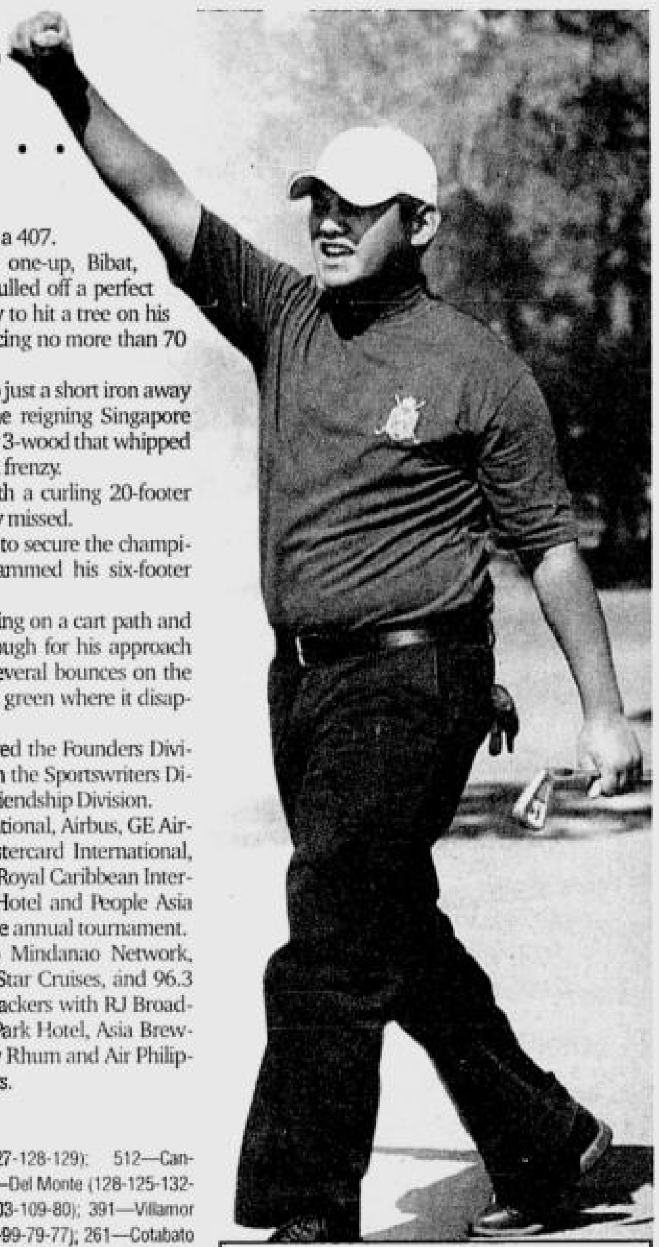
The Phone Pals hope that the 6-foot-9 American Earl Ike will fill the void left by big man Asi Taulava, who was suspended due to a citizenship controversy.

Red Bull, meanwhile, is hoping to turn things around with 6-foot-9 Dalron Johnson.

Shell will field in Wesley Wilson, the tallest import at 6-foot-11.

Coca-Cola, now handled by Eric Altamirano, and San Miguel Beer won the opening matches Sunday. The Coke Tigers blasted the Sta. Lucia Realtors, 76-65, while the Beermen trounced the Alaska Aces, 82-73. *Jasmine W. Payo*

S'woods claims . . .



From page A25

just 80 points for the day for a 407.

Knowing his team was one-up, Bibat, playing in the final flight, pulled off a perfect drive on the par-5 18th only to hit a tree on his second shot, the ball advancing no more than 70 yards.

With flightmate Tanpinco just a short iron away for his third shot, Bibat, the reigning Singapore Amateur champ, hit a lovely 3-wood that whipped the Southwoods team into a frenzy.

Tanpinco left himself with a curling 20-footer for birdie which he narrowly missed.

Bibat, needing two putts to secure the championship for Southwoods, rammed his six-footer home for the victory.

Earlier, Asistio was standing on a cart path and had a restricted follow-through for his approach on No. 18. His shot took several bounces on the fairway before reaching the green where it disappeared into the cup.

Meanwhile, Cebu captured the Founders Division crown while Iligan won the Sportswriters Division. Victorias ruled the Friendship Division.

Pagcor, ABS-CBN International, Airbus, GE Aircraft Engines, Boeing, Mastercard International, Globe Platinum, Joey 92.3, Royal Caribbean International, Golden Nuggets Hotel and People Asia are the major sponsors of the annual tournament.

Fortune Tobacco, Radio Mindanao Network, Premier Wine and Spirits, Star Cruises, and 96.3 WRock are the corporate backers with RJ Broadcasting Network, Century Park Hotel, Asia Brewery Inc., INQ7.net, Tanduay Rhum and Air Philippines are the minor sponsors.

The Scores:

Championship Division

514—Southwoods (130-127-128-129); 512—Canlubang (124-143-134-131); 498—Del Monte (128-125-132-113); 407—Wack Wack (115-103-109-80); 391—Villamor (114-91-95-91); 343—Leyte (88-99-79-77); 261—Cotabato (65-64-78-54); 201—Brookside (90-40-71)

Founders Division

468—Cebu (125-111-120-112); 459—Riviera (121-112-112-114); 451—Negros (118-119-106, 108); 435—Forest Hills (108-105-119-103); 427—Manila (107-100108-112)

Friendship Division

336—Victorias (77-93-89-77); 330—Stanford (76-91-80-83); 322—Bacolod (88-77-99-58); 305—Maharlika (68-82-80-75); 300—S. Cotabato (64-78-80-78)

Sportswriters Division

423—Iligan (104-111-108-100); 398—Iloilo (97-110-88-103); 385—Sta. Elena (97-99-107); 362—Alta Vista (78-100-92-92); 362—Palos Verdes (98-91-90-83)

TONLITS Asistio (top photo) pumps his fist after an eagle for Southwoods in the 18th hole. Teammate Artemio Murakami cries on the shoulder of team captain Thirdy Escaño after Michael Bibat clinches the victory with a birdie in the last hole. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Corporate Cup draws full roster

BALIKBAYAN teams and foreign visitors from the United States and Korea will join local parbusters in the 17th Philippine Corporate Cup golf championship presented by Smart Gold which is set on March 8-10 at the Camp John Hay Golf Club in Baguio City.

All 50 available team slots were filled up long before the registration deadline last week, indicating a renewed interest in one of the longest-running corporate events in local golf even by players residing outside the country.

The field of at least 200 golfers (four players to a team) will try to help their respective squads win the top awards in the following divisions—Group I for those with average handicap indices of 5-9.9, Group II for 10-13.99, Group III for 14-18.99, and Group IV for 19 and above.

There will be a separate competition for seniors aged 55 years and above for the tourney also sponsored by Camp John Hay Golf Club, Camp John Hay Manor, Camp John Hay Development Co. and Wilson.

This year's Corporate Cup will feature a transfer of management from its originator, Cecil Hechanova, and the Philippine Corporate Cup Foundation Inc. to Club Leisure Corp. which vowed to ensure its continued growth in terms of participation and popularity.

Camp John Hay chairman of the board Robert John Sobrepeña said Club Leisure Corp. always believed in the primary goal of the Corporate Cup to foster relations among golfers in the business community and assured Hechanova that it will become one of the major events in the club calendar.

Rep. Mauricio Domogan will be leading the City of Baguio team, Sobrepeña banners the Camp John Hay bid while Hechanova will be joining the Lux Marketing squad.

The participating teams: 1919, Alta Vista, ARL Maritime, Artima Inc., Astig I, Astig II, Bi-Flex Olyset, Brewyard, Camp John Hay Dev't. Corp., Camp John Hay Golf Club, Camp John Hay Leisure, Camp John Hay Manor, Capital Steel Products Inc, CargoAire Freight, Cebu Infinity, CIMSI, City of Baguio, Club Marinduque, Dragon Horse Travel and Tours, ERA Gas, FLM Print Corp., Four's Company, Greenhills I, Greenhills II, Hi-Cor Industries Inc., JM Investment, Kafagway, Korean Chamber, Le Chef, Leeds Environmental Science, LNP Foundation I, LNP Foundation II, Lux Marketing, Mabuhay Magazine, Medical Systems Inc.-Calamba Doctors Hospital, MEI Crystal International, Mercedes Plantation, MP Wood Phils., National Petroleum Corp., Neptum Inc., Nueva Ecija, Orchard, Pasga, Piedras Negras Const. Corp., Powerlux, Smart, Sunpack, Sunrise, Tableria Tan Tao & Sawmill Inc., Texas, Warbird and Gus Mol.

SPORTSWATCH

Torre grabs Tanauan tourney lead

TANAUAN CITY, Batangas—Top seed Grandmaster Eugene Torre grabbed solo leadership after defeating GM candidate Ronald Dableo yesterday in the fifth round of the Tanauan Chess Open-Mayor's Cup at the Speaker Jose Laurel Memorial Gymnasium here. Dableo took the second spot along with IM Barlo Nadera, IM Chito Garma, IM Petronio Roca, FM Fernie Donguines, NM Roberto Suelo Jr., NM Rolando Nolte, NM John Paul Gomez, NM Emmanuel Senador, NM Ronald Llavanes and Eden Diano.

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor

JVC Open registration slated

DEADLINE for submission of entries to the JVC Badminton Open Juniors Championship is on Mar. 15. The tournament, open to players 14 years old and below, is slated April 2 to May 29. Entry forms are available at Power-Smash, Asuncion Badminton Center and at the mall marketing department of SM North Edsa, SM Fairview, SM Pampanga, SM Marilao, SM Southmall and SM Megamall. E-mail jvcbadminton@hotmail.com or call 8942995, 7531286. The 14-and-under class is open to players born on or after Jan. 1, 1991, while those born on or after Jan. 1, 1995, are eligible to compete in the 10-and-under category.

Team MBA '73 bags AIM Cup

TEAM MBA '73 bagged the overall title in the 2nd AIM Leadership Cup in the Tagaytay Midlands Golf Club on Mar. 2. The team was composed of Teddy Villanueva, Bobby Atendido, Abet Villarosa, Bobby Garcia, Philip Judan, Celso Vivas, Alex Tanwanco, Felipe Diego and Ramon de Vera. Senior executives and heads of the country's top corporations participated in the tournament held during the AIM Homecoming Week 2005.

Korean boxing champ arrives today

REIGNING South Korean welterweight champion Baira Kim and former Pan Asian Boxing Association (Paba) light flyweight boss Yura Dima will arrive today to face Filipino fighters Rey Pelonia and Sukarno Banjao in the main event of "Let's Get It On in Mandaluyong" card on March 8 at the Mandaluyong Gym. It will be the first non-title bouts of the two Filipino pugs after defending their World Boxing foundation (WBF) International crowns in September and November of last year. The chief supporting bout is the clash between formidable WBC light flyweight mandatory challenger Juanito Rubillar and former RP champion Rugene Gonzales. The event is sponsored by Fortune, Mark, Café Puro, Family Rubbing Alcohol and Jemah TV boss Marc Roces.

P1.2M staked at 6-cock derby

MORE than 100 cockers and breeders have firmed up their commitment to join the Miko Fatman 6-Cock Derby on Mar. 7, 9 and 11 at the air-conditioned Pasay City Cockpit. At stake is a guaranteed prize of P1.2 million, while entry fee is P18,700. Submission of weights is set at 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Call 8431890, 8431746 and 8166750. The event will be supported by Sagupaan Complexor 3000, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Sagupaan Mite Free. Derby host Pepito Ngo, a consistent participant in big-time derbies, enjoys the full backing of fellow members in the National Cockers Association (NCA), Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) and Pasay Cockpit Cockers Association (PCCA).

Gamefowl contest set April

THE NATIONAL Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB), an umbrella organization of 14 breeders groups all over the country, present the NFGB National 7-Bullstag Derby on April 18, 19 and 21 at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum. The guaranteed prize at stake is P1.5 million, with an entry fee of P15,000. "This event is a fund-raising campaign for our national athletes who will compete in the 2005 SEA Games," said Rene "Boy" Diaz, president of Luzon Gamefowl Breeders Association. Call 7212566.

Hazards of the trade

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

BACOLOD CITY—Like Valentin Dakuykoy, Tommy Manotoc has every right to question the ruling of a golf rulesman. Nothing in the rule book prohibits any spectator from raising a point on matters of golf decisions.

But to do it the confrontational, albeit boorish, manner will destroy the very essence of the sport: gentlemanliness.

That, in a nutshell, was what Tommy Manotoc did on Friday in the 58th PAL Interclub at the Bacolod Golf and Country Club in nearby Binitin, Murcia.

By literally accosting rulesman Jake Ayson and telling Jake right off that Jake made two wrong decisions on two incidents involving two players, why, I say Manotoc was way out of line there.

It was appalling, to say the least, that Manotoc, for all the supposed fine fibers enveloping his name all these years, shouted almost at the top of his voice while arguing his case with Ayson.

What all the more marred the already ugly stance inexplicably put up by Manotoc was when he categorically accused Ayson of playing favorites when Ayson made his twin rulings.

Piqued by Manotoc's overbearing stunt, Ayson, known to be cool as a cat even under the most severe bombardment, asked Manotoc: "Are you trying to insinuate something?"

Manotoc's reply was: "Of course!"

At this, Ayson walked away from Manotoc.

Ayson's two rulings involved Juvic Pagunsan, Canlubang's top gun, and Hanson So Jr., a Southwoods mainstay.

Ayson penalized Pagunsan, Manotoc's former teammate, two strokes because Pagunsan's caddy stood at his line of play when Pagunsan made his putt.

Ayson said So escaped penalty because So consumed 4 minutes, 50 seconds searching his ball, a decision loudly disputed by Manotoc at the clubhouse.

So loud was Manotoc's voice that golfers taking their lunch were shocked to the bones.

Joseph Stevens, who was about to make a putt on nearby 18, complained that Manotoc's shouting disturbed him.

Said Ernie Sarmiento, the chief photographer of INQUIRER: "I was having lunch when I heard the shouting. I never thought Manotoc was capable of transforming himself into a wild man."

Indeed, Manotoc's outburst produced nothing but a monumental taint to his supposedly illustrious reputation as a gentleman of note.

A point of view, whether sound or not, need not be ventilated noisily. We are all supposed to be adults here, right?

If at all, Manotoc's uncalled for noisy monologue eroded the legend behind his name.

Some people just don't know, refuse to learn, the art of aging gracefully.

How old is Manotoc? Fifty-five? Fifty-six?

Ayson's rulings prevailed—as it should because a rulesman's decision, right or wrong, is final and can only be overturned by the tournament committee.

Manotoc almost saved himself from sarcasm and ostracism when he apologized to the stunned golfers afterward. But then, he gave himself away when he laced his apology with: "*Pasensiya na kayo. Sawang-sawa na kasi ako sa* NGAP (Sorry, but I am fed up with the NGAP)."

What's that supposed to mean?

Whatever he meant by that, only Manotoc knew the answer.

Ayson, in case you still don't know, has been with the NGAP since 1961 and is now its executive director.

Like Manotoc and all of us, we make mistakes because we are but human.

The secret, though, is, we apologize immediately once we realize we made a mistake. And it matters that, when issuing the apology, it should be done sincerely—minus ifs and buts.

For Ayson, well, the incident is another reminder that it's not really easy being a golf rulesman. I am a rulesman myself and, yes, before I decided to become one, I needed a lot of soul-searching.

The life of a columnist is hard enough, oftentimes too lonely in that we are sometimes left licking wounds inflicted on us for the wrong reasons. Hazards of the trade, they say.

A columnist's credo is, we are not here to please but rather, we are pleased to see people stirred by our thoughts, whether positively or otherwise.

When I decided to be a rulesman myself some years back, I likened it to my job as a columnist: You can't please everybody.

I know that Jake Ayson, 65, still suffers. The hurt will linger for a little while more. Forgiveness may not come that easily.

Only dogs forgive the fastest.

***

FASTBREAK. Kind-hearted Rosie Dizon, our mother hen in the Press Center for decades, has said goodbye to the PAL Golf Interclub—the 58th PAL Interclub being her last. She's retiring as PAL administrative officer, Corporate Communications, in December after 41 years of exemplary service to the nation's flag carrier. We will surely miss you next year in Davao, Ate Rosie. Question Rollie E: With Ate Rosie's impending retirement, will Pinky Mag-iba be promoted to take over Ate Rosie's position? Just asking.

MICHELE Bumgarner slips past her male rivals as they negotiate the curve in the 10th Winter Cup in Italy.

Koreans take doubles for 2-1 lead

IT WAS a last-minute move that proved costly.

Johnny Arcilla took over from doubles specialist Joseph Victorino and his instant partnership with Rolando Ruel proved no match for Chung Hee-seok and Kim Dong-hyun as South Korea took a 2-1 lead over the Philippines yesterday in their Asia-Oceania Zone Group II Davis Cup tie at the Philippine Columbian Association courts.

With Victorino out of commission due to sore eyes, Arcilla and Ruel tried to make a game out of it only to get crushed by the Koreans, 6-4, 6-0, 6-0, in the doubles.

"*Nangapa sila* (they were lost) because it was their first time to partner in doubles," explained RP non-playing captain Johnny Jose. "*Minalas kami sa* (we didn't get the) breaks."

The visitors now need to win one of the two reverse singles matches starting at 10 a.m. today to advance to the second round.

Patrick John Tierro will face Woong Sun-jun, while Arcilla will battle Suk Hyun-joon as the Philippines tries to avoid going down to Group III with a loss.

Arcilla and Ruel earlier kept pace with the Koreans to forge a tie at 4-4 before winning the next two games to wrap up the first set.

The Filipinos lost all semblance of cohesiveness in the next two sets, allowing the Koreans to put them away in just one hour and 12 minutes.

In Group 1, Pakistan and Japan also took 2-1 leads over Thailand and Taiwan, respectively, by winning the doubles.

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Bumgarner a revelation in Italy

ASIAN champion Michele Bumgarner recently signed a contract with Italian kart manufacturer Intrepid Kart to race in the Intercontinental Class-A (ICA) as official driver of the company's New Team Karting Racing team.

Bumgarner, backed by Samsung, Oakley, Malaysia Airlines, Tillett Racing Seats and Standard Insurance, will be racing initially in 6 championship races in Italy, the 10th Winter Cup and the Italian Masters Series this year—the most competitive series in Europe.

The New Team Karting Racing team is managed by Pietro Sassi, who guided F1 driver (Jordan team, 2004) Giorgio Pantano to two World Karting Championships.

The PSA awardee for karting and recent winner of a second consecutive Golden Wheel award as Motorsports Driver of the Year, Michele initially tested the various Intrepid chassis and engines before racing in the 10th Winter Cup in South Guarda Kart Track in Lonato, Italy, two weeks ago.

She is the first RP driver to race in the Winter Cup, the year's first major kart race in Europe which attracts top teams and drivers worldwide.

Bumgarner didn't make it to the finals due to engine problems but her quick lap times in her initial tests in Italy immediately caught the attention of Sassi and Intrepid owner Mirko Sguerzoni.

"Michele has surprised everyone here with her ability to quickly adapt to a new kart, tough track conditions while achieving optimum racing speeds in no time at all, and her overall strength," said Sassi. "I see a top-notch driver in Michele and we are very excited for her."

Bumgarner clocked a highly impressive lap time of 43.196 seconds against the 42.933 of Formula-A (FA) class world champion David Fore, who used a more powerful FA engine than Bumgarner's ICA engine.

European karting aficionados were impressed with Michele's time, considering it's her first time in the Winter Cup.

"She has done surprisingly well for her first time in Italy and has impressed many people," Terry Fullerton, Bumgarner's racing coach, himself a former world karting champion, said. "The 'girl' driver from the Philippines is now known by all who witnessed her skill."

Out of 166 drivers, Bumgarner finished 11th out of 130 qualifiers, who were divided into nine groups. After failing to start in her first group race due to a flooded carburetor, she redeemed herself in the second race, starting third and finishing sixth.

Michele started fourth on her third race and finished ninth despite spinning out in the last lap. She made it to the semifinal, where her engine overheated and forced her to land 19th and miss the final.

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Webber powers 76ers

PHILADELPHIA—Chris Webber had his best performance in four games with Philadelphia, scoring 24 points and grabbing 12 rebounds in the 76ers' 98-89 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Friday.

Allen Iverson led Philadelphia with 31 points, and Samuel Dalembert added 15. The 76ers are 2-2 in four games with Webber in the lineup following the trade that sent him from Sacramento to Philadelphia.

"I think every little bit helps your confidence," Webber said. "One day you're averaging a number that many people don't do in three categories and the next day you're worthless. And that's from myself, I don't even care what everyone else is saying."

LeBron James led Cleveland with 34 points, and Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 22 points and 11 rebounds. The Cavaliers have lost five straight.

"We lost nine games in a row last year and got out of it," James said. "We're not hanging our heads low. I've been through this before and it's only my second season."

In Boston, Antoine Walker and Ricky Davis each scored 18 points, and Gary Payton added 10 in his return to the Celtics as Boston crushed the Charlotte Hornets, 104-84.

Boston is 4-0 since Walker returned to the team last week in a trade with Atlanta.

Payton, who re-signed Friday after being waived by Atlanta on Tuesday, played 21 minutes. He was traded to the Hawks—along with Tom Gugliotta, Michael Stewart and a future first-round pick—last week in the deal that brought Walker back to Boston.

Emeka Okafor had 12 points and 10 rebounds for Charlotte.

In Orlando, Florida, Grant Hill scored 29 points and rookie Dwight Howard, added 20 points and 15 rebounds to help the Magic snap the New York Knicks' three-game winning streak via a 111-89 rout.

Kelvin Cato added 14 points, Steve Francis had 13 points and nine assists, and rookie Jameer Nelson had 11 points and seven assists.

In Washington, Jason Richardson scored 16 of his 34 points in the fourth quarter, and also had eight rebounds, four assists and three blocks to lead the Golden State Warriors past the Wizards, 103-90.

Troy Murphy added 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Warriors. Larry Hughes scored 27 points for the Wizards.

In Miami, Dwyane Wade scored 22 points and the Heat made Alonzo Mourning's formal homecoming a good one, getting double-digit scoring from all five starters in a 104-83 cruise over the Sacramento Kings.

Shaquille O'Neal had 18 points, giving him 23,177 for his career and tying him with Adrian Dantley for 17th in NBA history. Eddie Jones had 17 points—including a perfect 5-for-5 night from 3-point range—in Miami's fourth straight victory.

Mourning, who rejoined the Heat this week, played the final 3:37 and finished with four points and four rebounds.

Mike Bibby had 22 points for Sacramento, 4-10 in its last 14 games.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Shane Battier scored 12 of his career-high 33 points in the fourth quarter to help the Grizzlies rally past the Toronto Raptors, 86-75, for coach Mike Fratello's 600th career victory.

Lorenzen Wright added 20 points and 15 rebounds, and Brian Cardinal had 13 points and nine rebounds for the Grizzlies. Jalen Rose led the Raptors with 19 points.

In New Orleans, JR Smith and PJ Brown each scored 14 points to help the Hornets snap the Utah Jazz' three-game winning streak with a 92-85 victory.

Jackson Vroman added a career-high 12 points and had nine rebounds. Andrei Kirilenko led Utah with 21 points.

In Minneapolis, Wally Szczerbiak scored 28 points, Kevin Garnett added 25, and Anthony Carter had a season-high 13 assists to lift the Minnesota Timberwolves over the Milwaukee Bucks, 103-97.

Michael Redd had 24 points and seven rebounds for Milwaukee.

In San Antonio, Tim Duncan made a jump shot with 38 seconds left to break a tie, and Manu Ginobili added four late free throws to push the Spurs past the Chicago Bulls, 102-99.

Duncan finished with 31 points and 13 rebounds, Tony Parker had 25 points and eight assists, and Ginobili added 19 points—13 in the second half.

Ben Gordon and Othella Harrington had 20 points each for Chicago.

In Portland, Oregon, Reggie Miller and Stephen Jackson scored 24 points each, and the Indiana Pacers spoiled Trail Blazers coach Kevin Pritchard's debut, 106-97.

The Pacers, playing just hours after All-Star Jermaine O'Neal was placed on the injured list because of a sprained right shoulder, snapped a three-game losing streak.

Shareef Abdur-Rahim led Portland with 27 points. Pritchard took over the Blazers as interim coach this week when the team unexpectedly fired Maurice Cheeks.

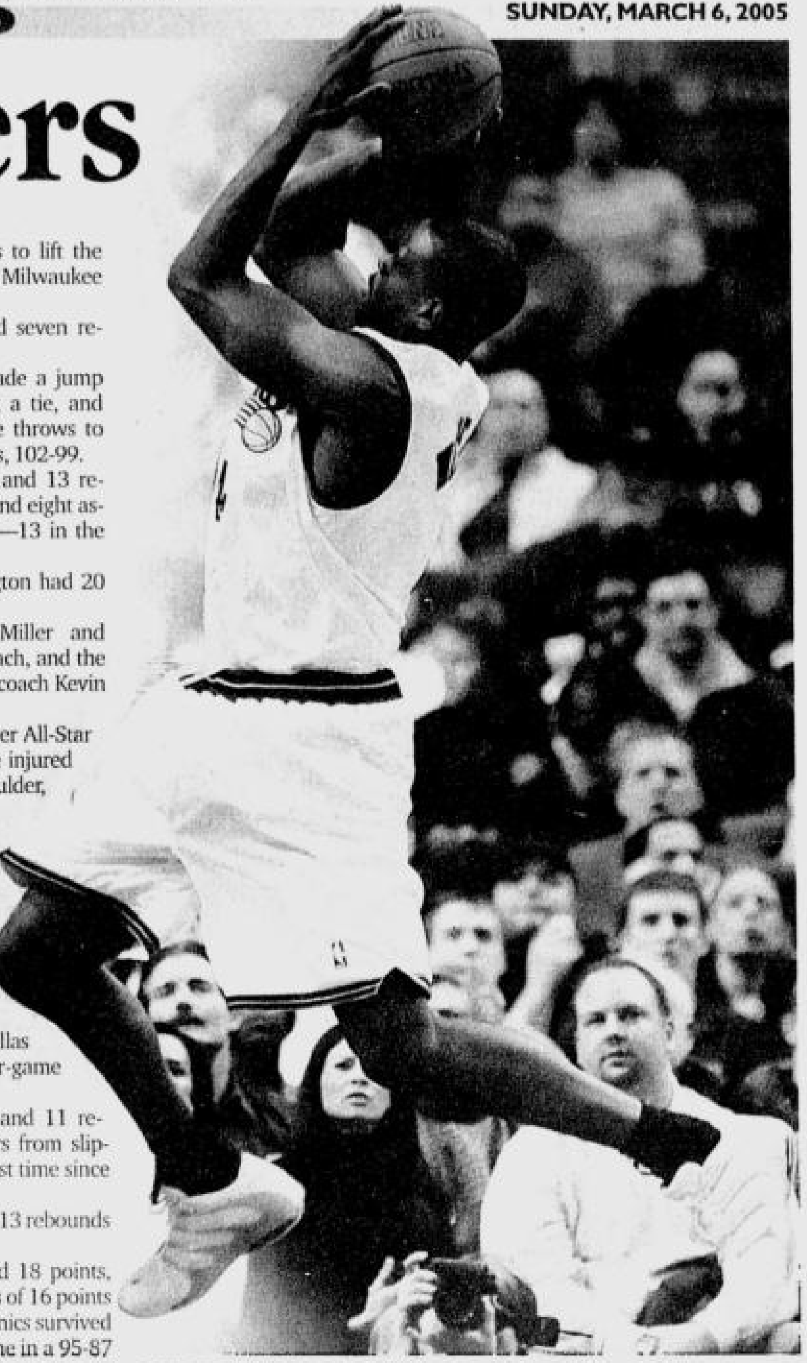
In Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 10 of his 40 points in the final 2:15, Caron Butler had 20 points and the Lakers beat the Dallas Mavericks, 108-103, to snap a four-game losing streak.

Lamar Odom added 18 points and 11 rebounds, helping prevent the Lakers from slipping under the .500 mark for the first time since they were 3-4.

Dick Nowitzki had 23 points and 13 rebounds for Dallas.

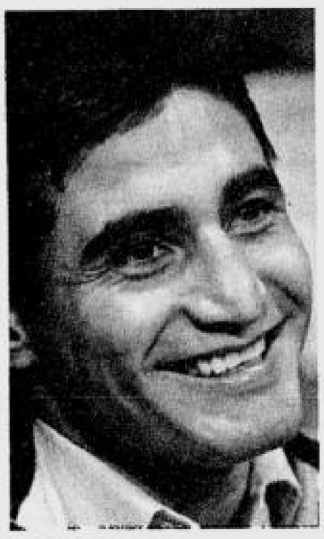
In Seattle, Rashard Lewis scored 18 points, and Jerome James had season highs of 16 points and seven rebounds as the SuperSonics survived the Detroit Pistons' bruising front line in a 95-87 triumph.

AP



PHILADELPHIA'S Chris Webber finally shows his true form. REUTERS

Morales spars 12 rounds, ready to brawl



MORALES

By Salven L. Lagumbay, Contributor

ERIK Morales went the full 12 rounds against different sparmates yesterday and declared himself ready for his March 19 showdown with Filipino champion Manny Pacquiao at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

The Aztec warrior from Tijuana easily hurdled what was described as a "debilitating test" at the high-altitude Central Ceremonial Otomi gym under the supervision of his father Jose "Olivaritos" Morales.

Erik "El Teribile" Morales is peaking in perfect form, as he was declared ready for the worst, following his first 12-round sparring yesterday at the high-altitude Centro Ceremonial Otomi yesterday in preparation for his mammoth showdown with Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao.

Under the supervision of his father Jose "Olivaritos" Morales, the Mexican warrior survived what was described as a "debilitating test" against different fresh sparmates at the gym, going the full 12 rounds easily.

The first public workout of Morales came barely a week after Pacquiao, training under the watchful eyes of Freddie Roach, also held his first 12-round sparring session with full media coverage against bigger Wild Card Gym fighters.

Morales actually held his 12-round session in virtual seclusion as Mexican mediamen were constrained to travel long and hard to reach the training site at the Otomi Mountains.

First to spar against Morales was Antonio "Barrio" Meza, who engaged the former three-division champion in a heated three-round affair.

Next came Sydney Olympic Games bronze medallist Cristian Bejarano followed by Rodrigo Juárez, who threw at Morales all the artillery that is expected to be launched by Pacquiao in their showdown.

Morales' handlers, however, have indicated his sparring sessions against American Cornelius Lock and Mexican Fernando "Wary" Beltrán Jr. will be most crucial in helping him hurdle Pacquiao.

The Filipino has proven to be a tough nut to crack for Mexican fighters. He stopped the legendary Marco Antonio Barrera in 2003 and Juan Manuel Marquez had to come back from three knockdowns to salvage a draw with Pacquiao in his defense of the WBA/IBF featherweight titles last year.

Indons oust RP spikers in volley tilt

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—They tried hard, but it wasn't enough.

The Filipinos yielded to the Indonesians, 25-15, 25-20, 25-20, yesterday as the rankings went true to form in the Men's Volleyball World Championship Asia Pool C qualifying here.

Indonesia, the reigning Southeast Asian Games titlist, thus advances to the second round of the worldwide eliminations with top favorite Chinese Taipei, which downed Macau, 25-17, 25-10, 25-17, earlier.

Both the Indons and the Taiwanese streaked to their third wins, making their 2 p.m. showdown today a titular battle as well. They will represent Asia Pacific in the Kazakhstan eliminator middle of this year.

The Filipinos will have to beat the Tongans in the 4 p.m. tussle to improve on their 1-win, 2-loss record and claim third place in the five-nation meet being held at the University of San Carlos Gym.

Owners of six SEA Games titles, the taller Indons allowed the Filipinos, who have yet to clinch a SEAG crown, to move ahead several times only to regain control down the stretch.

Muhammad Zainudin, a springy 6-foot-4 spiker with a wide wingspan, proved to be unstoppable as he bombarded the Filipinos with 16 hits. Nyoman Rudi Tirtana, the other half of the Indons' defensive wall, struck for 11.

"We take this (defeat) as a learning experience," said RP team coach Vip Isada.

Still, it was obvious that the Filipinos also lagged in skills behind the Indons, who are being mentored by Chinese Quijiang Li.

Parading six players from the champion squad in the Vietnam SEAG, the Indons needed only 58 minutes to dump the Filipinos, whose best performer was again Dante Alinsunurin with 12 hits.

Macau, competing in the qualifying pool for the first time, ended up with a 1-3 slate, its lone win coming at the expense of fellow newcomer Tonga, 29-27, 25-20, 25-21, on Thursday.

The weeklong meet is sponsored by the Philippine Sports Commission, Super Ferry and 2Go, PCSO, Air Philippines, Sogo Hotel, Bacchus Energy Drink, Cebu Visitors and Conventions Bureau, Trapik.com, Speed Magazine, Pepsi, Gatorade and White Beauty Phils.

Kart racing highlights F1 presentation

THE MILD Seven F1 Club's F1-raceday congregations for 2005 will have a reality twist to it with the inception of kart races into the regular raceday fare.

The club's presentation of the 2005 Australian Grand Prix at the Comfort Zone, Manila Speedzone Kart Complex, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, at 10 a.m. on Sunday, March 6 will also kick-off the 2005 Speedzone MP Turbo Kart Series.

The kart series was included to give racing enthusiasts a medium to let off their pent-up passion for speed on F1 racedays. The Mild Seven F1 Club is sponsored by Mild Seven, Speedzone, Comfort Zone, MP Turbo, Speed, Puma Footwear and Apparel, JVC and Joey 92.3.

The Mild Seven F1 Club has been regularly hosting race-day gatherings for F1 aficionados on race days. The regular attendees all agreed that watching the races in the company of people with the same passion was a lot better than watching it in their homes or elsewhere.

The Mild Seven F1 Club is open to all who are 18 years old and above.

More SEAG venues finalized

THE PHILIPPINE Southeast Asian Games Committee (Philsoc) finalized yesterday the venues for almost all the 41 sports in the biennial meet slated Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Athletics, baseball, softball, table tennis and wrestling will be held at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, while women's basketball will be staged at the San Andres gym.

Billiards and snooker will be staged at the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay City, while women's football will be held at the Marikina Sports Center.

Badminton will be played at the Philsports Arena, while fencing will be at the Pasig Sports Center. Aside from basketball, Makati will also host squash at the Makati Sports Club.

Shooting will be at the Marine Shooting Range in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, while cycling (track events) will be at the Amoranto Velodrome, Quezon City.

Jasmine W. Payo

Agassi loses, Roddick saves US

AGASSI AP

CARSON, California—Andre Agassi stumbled in his return to US Davis Cup play, then Andy Roddick stepped up to even the World Group tie 1-1 against Croatia on Friday.

Croatia's Ivan Ljubicic beat Agassi, 6-3, 7-6 (0), 6-3, in the opening singles, the American's first Davis Cup match in five years. Roddick bounced back after a first-set loss to defeat Mario Ancic, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4, in the second match.

The first round resumes on Saturday, with twins Mike and Bob Bryan scheduled to face Ljubicic and Ancic.

Roddick will play Ljubicic in Sunday's first reverse singles, with Agassi slated to battle Ancic in the final match of the first-round competition.

Agassi lost the opening set after falling behind 3-0, then was up 5-2 in the second before the hard-serving Ljubicic won three games in a row.

Ljubicic dominated the second-set tiebreaker with his serve, finishing the 7-0 shutout with a pair of aces.

He overpowered Agassi again in the third set, putting an exclamation point on the victory with his 18th ace of the day.

The loss was only the sixth in 36 Davis Cup matches for Agassi, who has played on three championship teams.

Ljubicic has reached four tour finals already this year. Although he lost each time, three of them were against No. 1 Roger Federer. *AP*

Vis-Min youth golf circuit launched

BACOLOD—Alex Montelibano, a World Amateur championship veteran, yesterday spearheaded the launching of the Vis-Min Youth Golf Circuit here to give young players in the south a chance to further hone their talents.

"All the activities and tournaments are in Luzon, yet Negros and the rest of the south used to be the hub of talent," said Montelibano, who is being supported by Ramontito Garcia, Yoyong Velez and Tommy Manotoc in the project.

"We wouldn't be doing this if we are seeing something being done for the development of the sport in our region," Montelibano added.

The organizing Philippine Amateur Golf Development Foundation, which Manotoc chairs and where Montelibano, Garcia and Velez are members of the board, will conduct the tournaments scheduled this summer.

The Bank of Commerce has already agreed to help, together with Gatorade and Sta. Lucia, through vice president Enteng Santos, who has promised the use of its courses in the Visayas and Mindanao.

Alfonso Garcia, head of the Bank of Commerce Mindanao and Visayas areas, sealed his support with a handshake with Montelibano in simple launching rites in Bacolod.

Six legs have initially been scheduled with only players coming from the Vis-Min regions eligible.

The 67-year-old Montelibano said something has to be done because the sport is dying in Visayas and in Mindanao.

"There are a lot of players in limbo, especially those who graduate from the junior level," Montelibano said. "This is not intended to compete with the jungolf program in Manila, but we expect to provide the players here with the venue to display their wares."

Nike U-15 soccer today

THE PHILIPPINES' representative to the Nike (under 15) Premier cup regional football finals in Bangkok, Thailand will be known today as the two-day, 14-team NCRFA under-15 tournament winds up at the Ateneo College fields in Quezon City.

Ten more elimination games will be played starting at 8 a.m. with the semifinal and final matches set this afternoon.

The games pit Cheng Hua-Longos against Xavier FC, San Jose Delmonte FC against Eastmont, Ateneo against UPHDS, Makati against Mendiola, Cheng Hua-PCU against LSGH, CH-PCU against Mendiola, Marikina against LSGH, LSGH FC against Lions, Zobel against Xavier and CH-Longos against Eastmont.

The winner will carry the Nike Philippines colors in the Bangkok regional finals. The regional winners will clash in the final set in Hong Kong this June to determine the 2005 Nike Premier Cup champion.

Lions Athletic Fraternity football team, sportsmen Albert Que, Jack Rodriguez, Mari Martinez, Eddie Llamas, Tomas Lozano, Santi Elizalde, IOC representative to the Philippines Francisco Elizalde and three former soccer players are backing the U-15 RP-based players that will compete in Bangkok.

Baby Dolphins tame Cubs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

DUMAGUETE CITY—Philippine Christian University put a blot in San Beda's winning tradition with an 82-73 victory to capture the juniors title yesterday in the National Students basketball championships at the Lamberto Macias Gym here.

The Baby Dolphins, playing aggressively and using their height advantage to the hilt, kept the 12-time champions at bay then staved off a last-quarter charge by the Cubs to take their first ever crown in the tournament.

PCU, which swept all its games in dominating fashion, leaned on a formidable frontcourt led by 6-foot-7 Fil-Iraqi Rabeh Al-Hussaini and Allan Mangahas, who both shot 21 points.

The victory came on the heels of PCU's maiden NCAA men's title last year.

Meanwhile, seniors defending champion Philippine Maritime Institute rolled back National University, 84-78, to arrange a return match for the title against University of Perpetual Help-Rizal.

The Perpetual Altas downed Southern City College of Zamboanga, 65-54, in the other semifinals match held late Friday.

Larry Rodriguez scored 28 points to lead four other PMI Admirals in double figures.

Earlier, first-timer St. Clare College, bannered by the 39-point performance of Mark Lopez, ripped Holy Child of Davao, 104-79, to run away with the third place juniors trophy.

Scores

First Game

ST. CLARE 104—Lopez 39, Gemido 16, Cadelina 14, Coronel 13, Calma 11, Torres 4, Gall 3, Cruz 2, Ching .

HOLY CHILD 79—Japson 24, Wong 23, Samantila 13, Dehito 10, Bornea 5, Rosete 3, Fortinez 3, Bonleon 2, Rosal 0.

Quarters: 22-24, 4-39, 74-62, 104-79

Second Game

PCU 82—Al-Hussaini 21, A. Mangahas 21, J. Mangahas 15, Sarangay 10, Enriquez 8, De la Torre 7, Manlutac 0, Zapanta 0, Guidaben 0.

SAN BEDA 73—Menor 25, Martinez 17, Taganas 11, Teoson 8, Guillermo 6, Alabanza 2, Bermida 2, Victorino 2.

Quarters: 25-9, 46-29, 61-53, 82-73.

RACING TIPS

AT SANTA ANA BY MR. 999

Race 1—1. The Strategist 2. Heartland 3. Samahan
Race 2—1. Golden Africa 2. Front Page 3. Solo Singer
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Race 4—1. Regal Times 2. Sandpit Hero 3. High Class
Race 5—1. Idol 2. Hello Happy 3. College Gem 4. Batang Kalookan
Race 6—1. He's A Batong 2. Dancing Slew 3. King Hazm 4. Zarafun Mo 5. Golden Treasure
Race 7—1. West Bound 2. Flying Princess
Race 8—1. Precious Moment 2. Seven Lakes 3. Galaxy Wars 4. Wild Orphan
Race 9—1. Black Squall 2. Harrod's Magic 3. U Are My Sunshine 4. Sunline 5. Paradise
Race 10—1. Golden Fantasy 2. Joint Account 3. Legally Blonde 4. Jay Nicole/Parrot Moe
Race 11—1. Full of Success 2. Ilang Ilang Queen 3. Mercurian 4. Jokes Only 5. Shuttler
Race 12—1. Fancy Dancer 2. Lumiere 3. Wrecking Ball 4. Smooth Strike
Race 13—1. Victoria's Secret 2. Strong Red 3. Top of D Line 4. Friendly Venture 5. Aim and Fire 6. Spinning Bullet

SANTA ANA SERIES

West Bound hot pick in 2nd leg

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

LADY Luck didn't smile on West Bound the last time star jockey Jonathan Hernandez was on the stirrups.

Today, however, the 5-year-old chestnut horse's fate is expected to change for the better when Hernandez takes the reins again in the second leg of the Santa Ana Park Championship series.

Hernandez has been tasked to partner West Bound in place of Eldy Salvador, who was his pilot for the last five consecutive outings.

Salvador succeeded in guiding the Heza Gone West-Gallant Native progeny to victory in the Classic Open last year but their last two partnerships were not as successful—a third and runner-up finishes in the opening leg of the event and the Philracom Open, respectively.

"Excited *ako na masakyan siya uli. Tingin ko kaya niya ang mga kalaban* (I'm excited to ride him again. I think he can handle his rivals this time around)," said Hernandez, who last steered West Bound to fifth spot in the Legend Cup last November.

Hernandez's optimism can be gleaned from the fact that West Bound is confronting a lighter field for this afternoon's assignment over 1,500 meters.

Three imports will try to stop West Bound from mirroring his stablemate Cover Girl's stirring win in the first leg. They are Flying Princess, Sound Offer and Ruah.

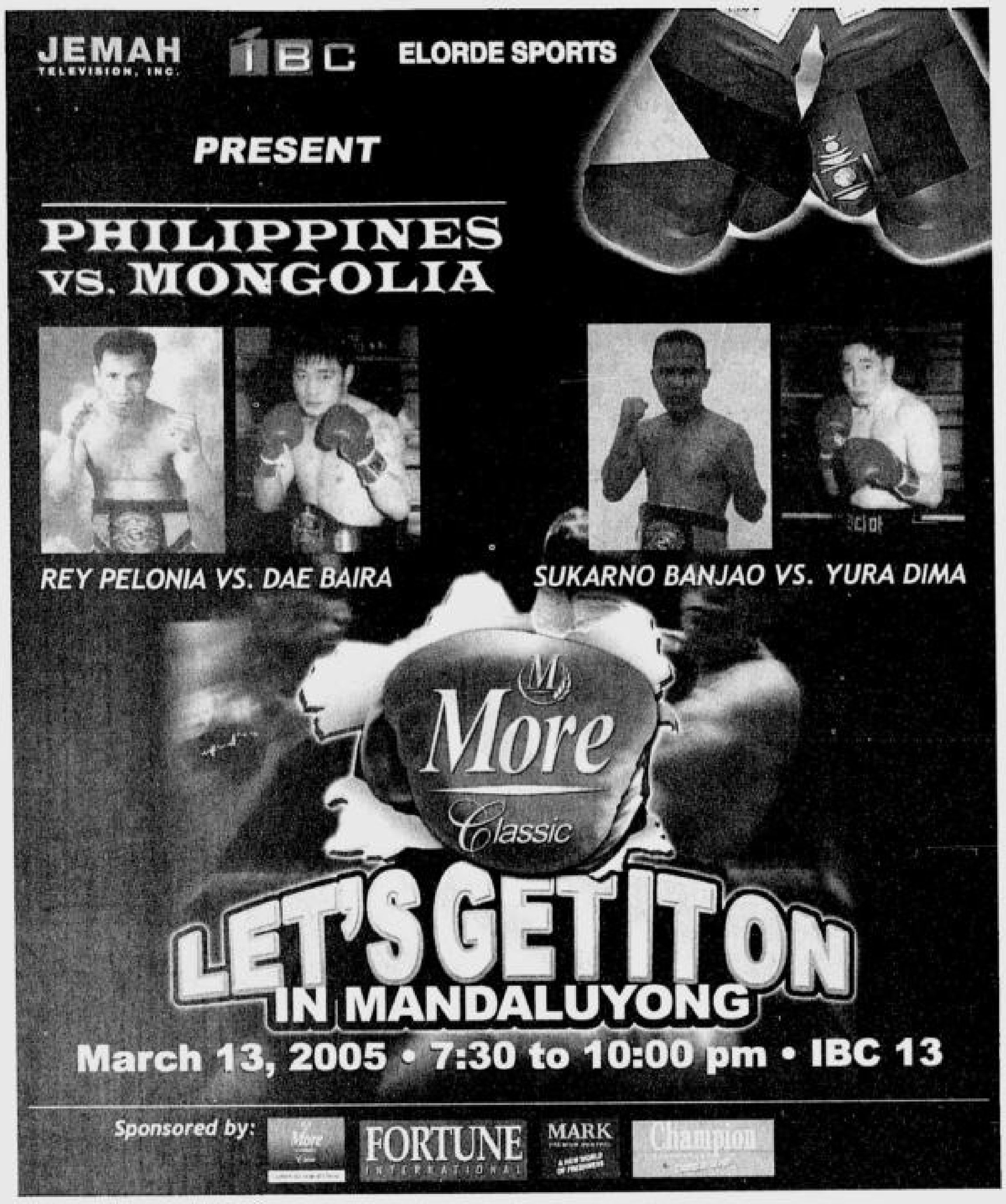
Flying Princess landed fourth in the last Freedom Cup, Sound Offer was fifth in the Philracom Open, while Ruah came in third in the recent MJCI Invitational.

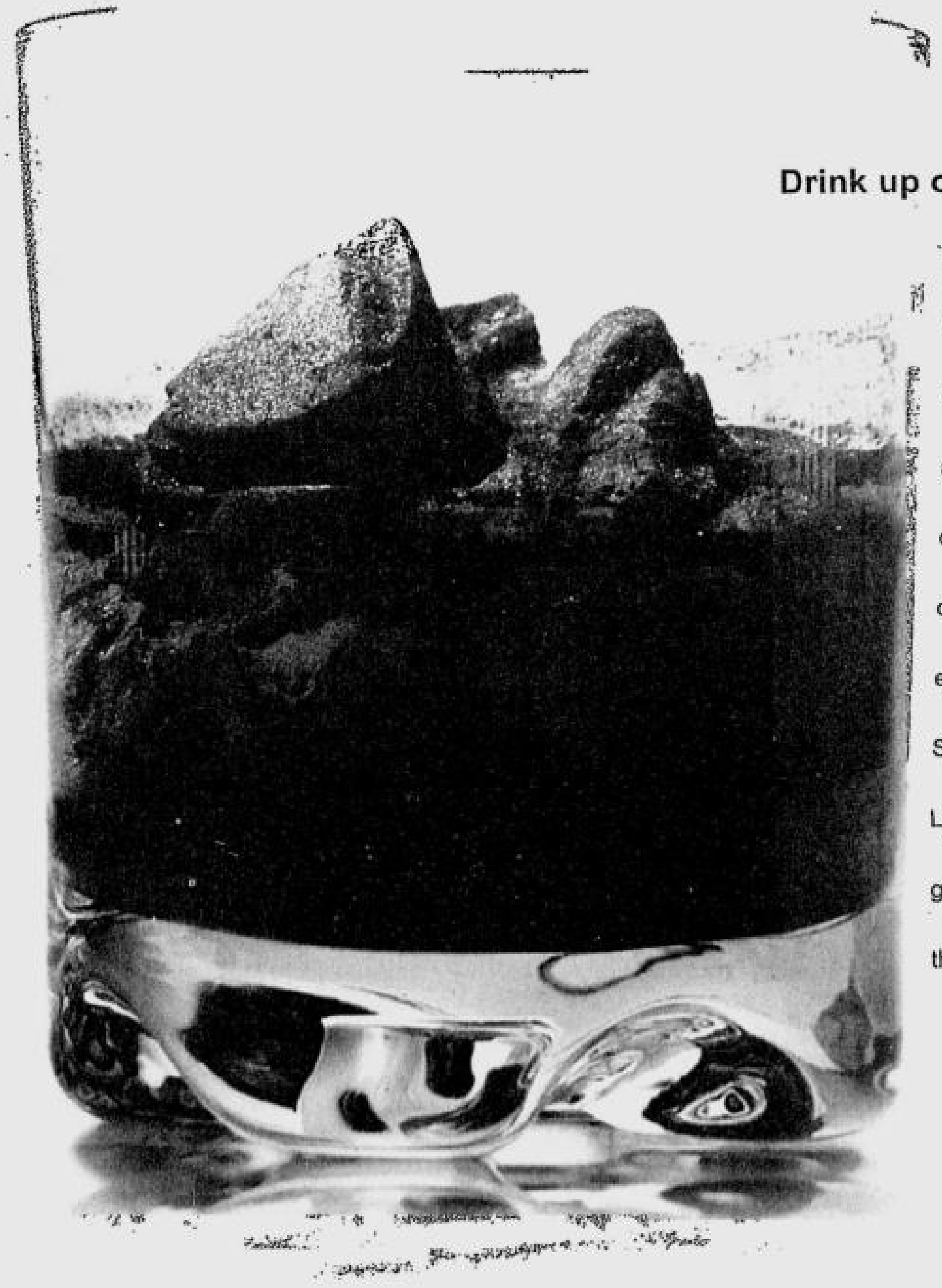
Salvador finds himself atop Sound Offer today. Jesse Guce mounts Flying Princess and Val Dilema skippers Ruah.

A win today—worth P300,000—would make it two in a row for Hernandez since he also rode Cover Girl in the first leg where Empire King arrived second.

Aside from his impressive credentials against the country's topnotch runners, West Bound, named 2005's Champion Older Horse, also holds the fastest time of 1 minute 34 seconds over the distance compared with the three other candidates.

West Bound is also using today's event as tune-up for the much-awaited Commissioner's Cup on March 13 where Empire King and Cover Girl are expected to be entered again.





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2 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	2 HITCH	2 LEMONY SNICKET'S	GUARANTEED SEATS 2 HITCH 1:30, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	2 ALFIE
3 CONSTANTINE	3 CONSTANTINE	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 MILLION DOLLAR BABY 2:00, 4:50, 7:40, 10:30	GUARANTEED SEATS 3 LEMONY SNICKET'S 2:10 4:30, 6:50 9:10 11:30	3 CONSTANTINE
4 LEMONY SNICKET'S	4 MILLION DOLLAR BABY	4 BUNSHINBA	GUARANTEED SEATS 4 CONSTANTINE 1:50 4:15, 6:40 9:15, 11:30	4 SON OF THE MASK
5 THE AVIATOR		5 SON OF THE MASK	GUARANTEED SEATS 5 THE AVIATOR 1:45, 5:00, 8:15 11:30	5
		6 HITCH		
		7 THE AVIATOR		

GB1 GREENBELT 1
1 MILLION DOLLAR BABY 12.30, 3.20, 6.10, 9.00
2 HITCH 12:20 2:45, 5 10, 7 35, 10:00

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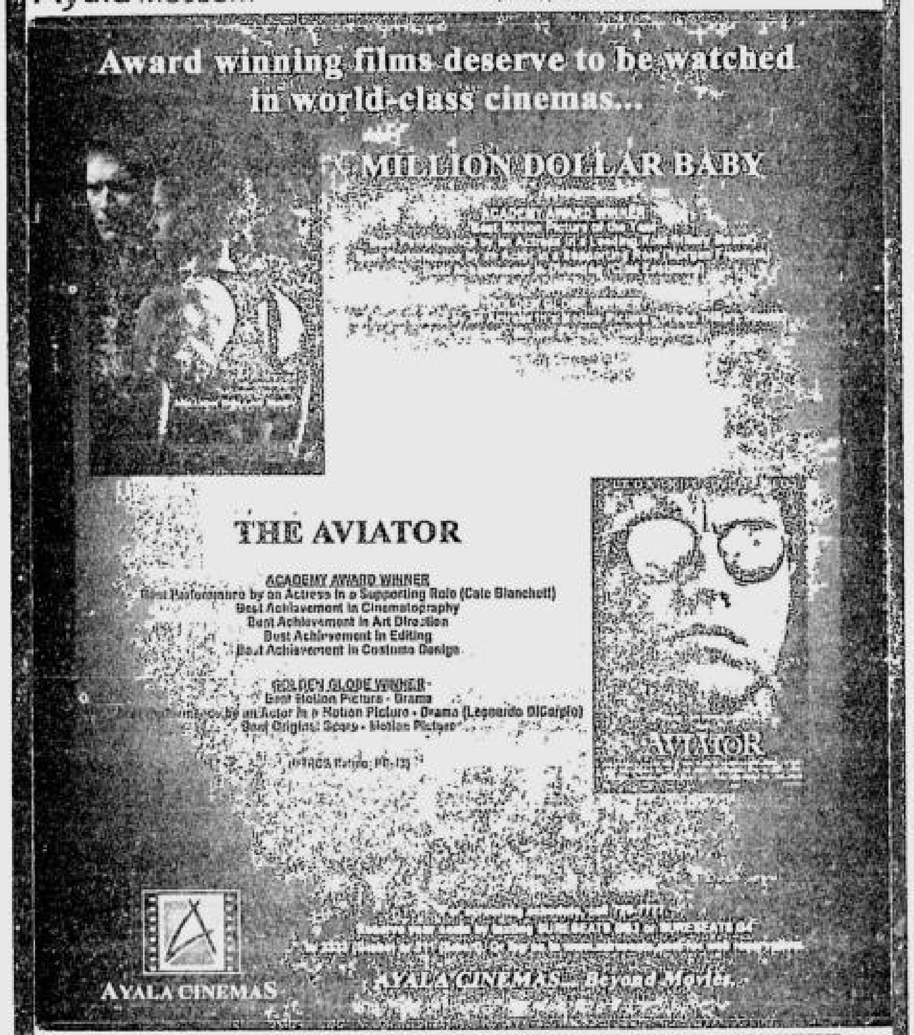

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2 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	7 PHANTOM OF THE OPERA 12:40 3:40 6:40 9:40
3 SON OF THE MASK 2 10:45 1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00	8 INFECTION 12:50 3:05 5:20 7:35 9:50
4 BUNSHINSABA 11:10 1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00	9 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
5 HITCH 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 MEET THE FOCKERS 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 HITCH	10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 SON OF THE MASK 2 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45	5 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 CONSTANTINE 10:20 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 BUNSHINSABA 10:30 12:25 2:20 4:15 6:10 8:05 10:00
4 INFECTION 10:30 12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45	7 MILLION DOLLAR BABY 10:50 1:35 4:20 7:05 9:50

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2 A SERIES OF UNFORTUNATE EVENTS 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00	6 HITCH 11:50 2:30 5:10 7:50 10:30
3 LET THE LOVE BEGIN 11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00	7 CONSTANTINE 10:35 1:05 3:35 6:05 8:20 10:30
4 SON OF THE MASK 2 12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:30	8 BUNSHINSABA *(OUIJA BOARD)* 10:50 12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 8:50 10:30

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1 CONSTANTINE 11:50 2:40 5:30 8:25	5 RAY 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:55
2 HITCH 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:55	6 SIDEWAYS 11:00 1:30 4:00 6:30 8:55
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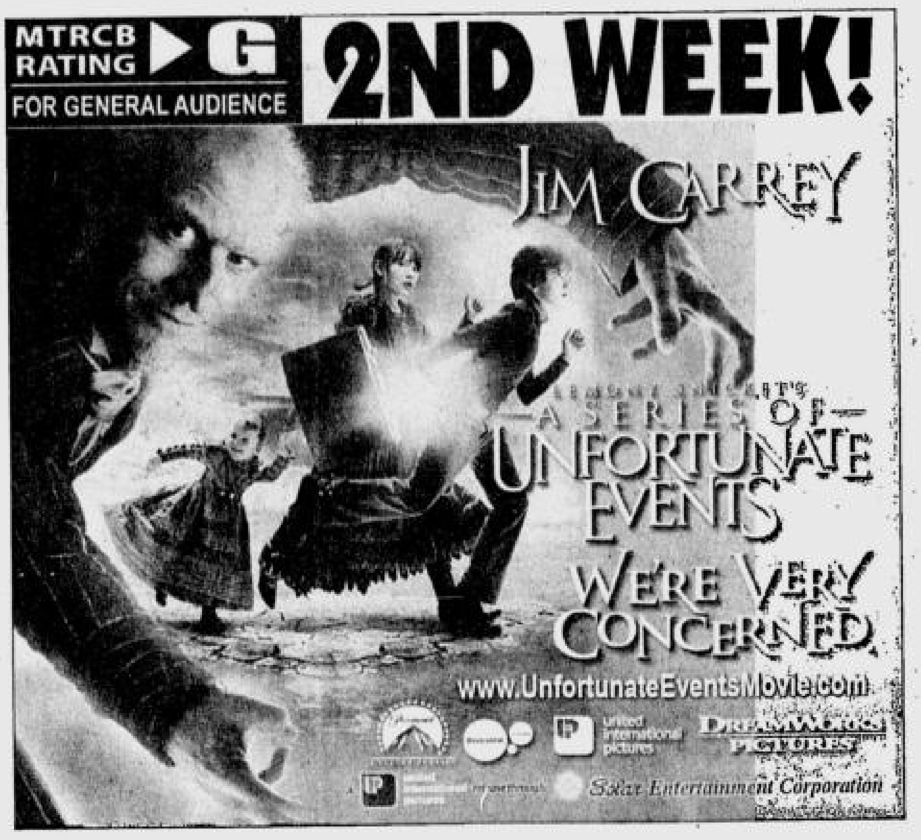
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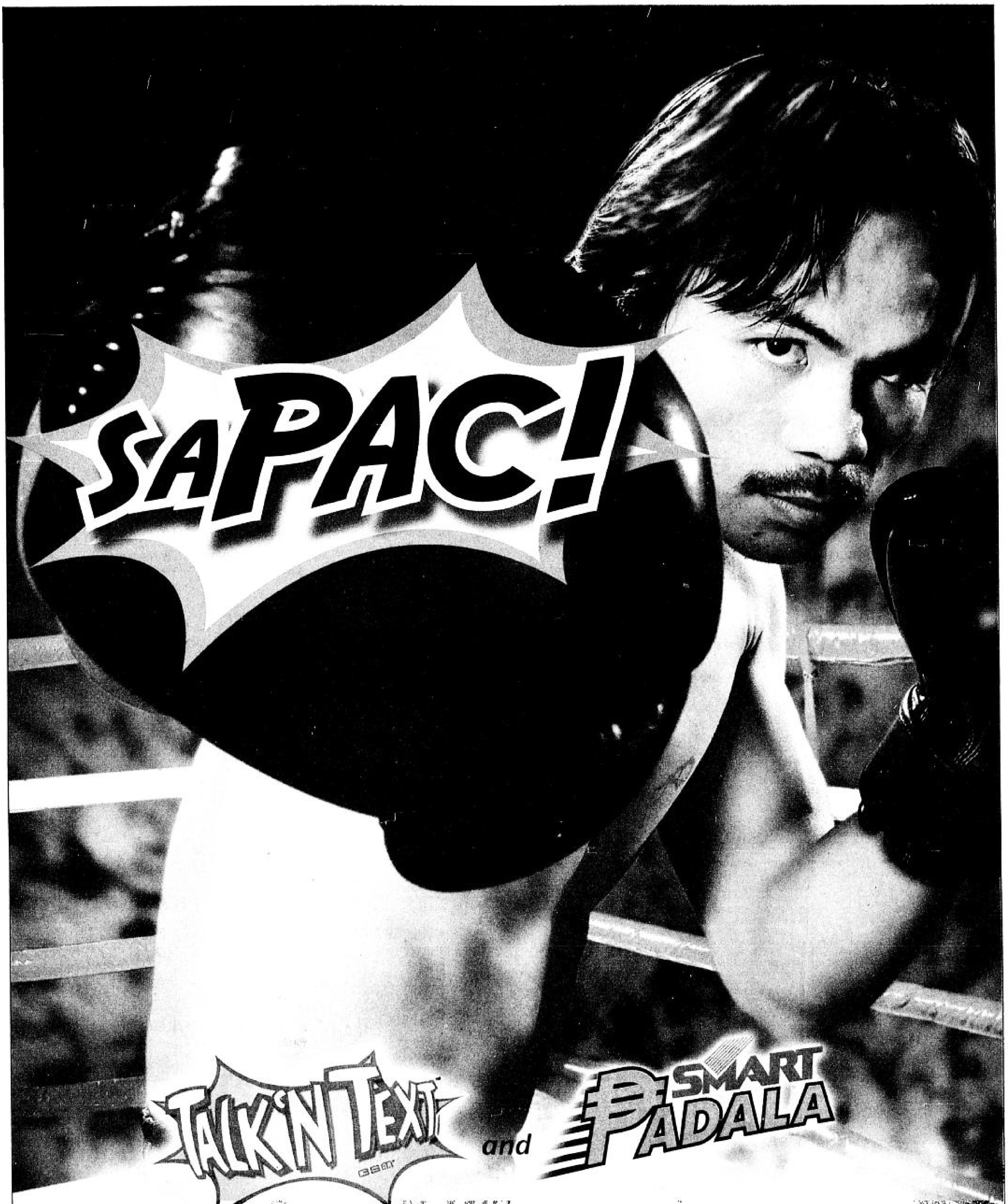

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Show biz split on 'lipo' issue

By Marinel R. Cruz

A PROPOSAL in Congress to restrain cosmetic surgeons from performing liposuction and other similar procedures until the Department of Health has issued safety nets drew conflicting opinions from show biz personalities..

Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales last week proposed that "lipo" (surgically drawing out fats) and tummy tuck operations be suspended due to the alarming increase in the number of reported injuries and fatalities.

BOY ABUNDA

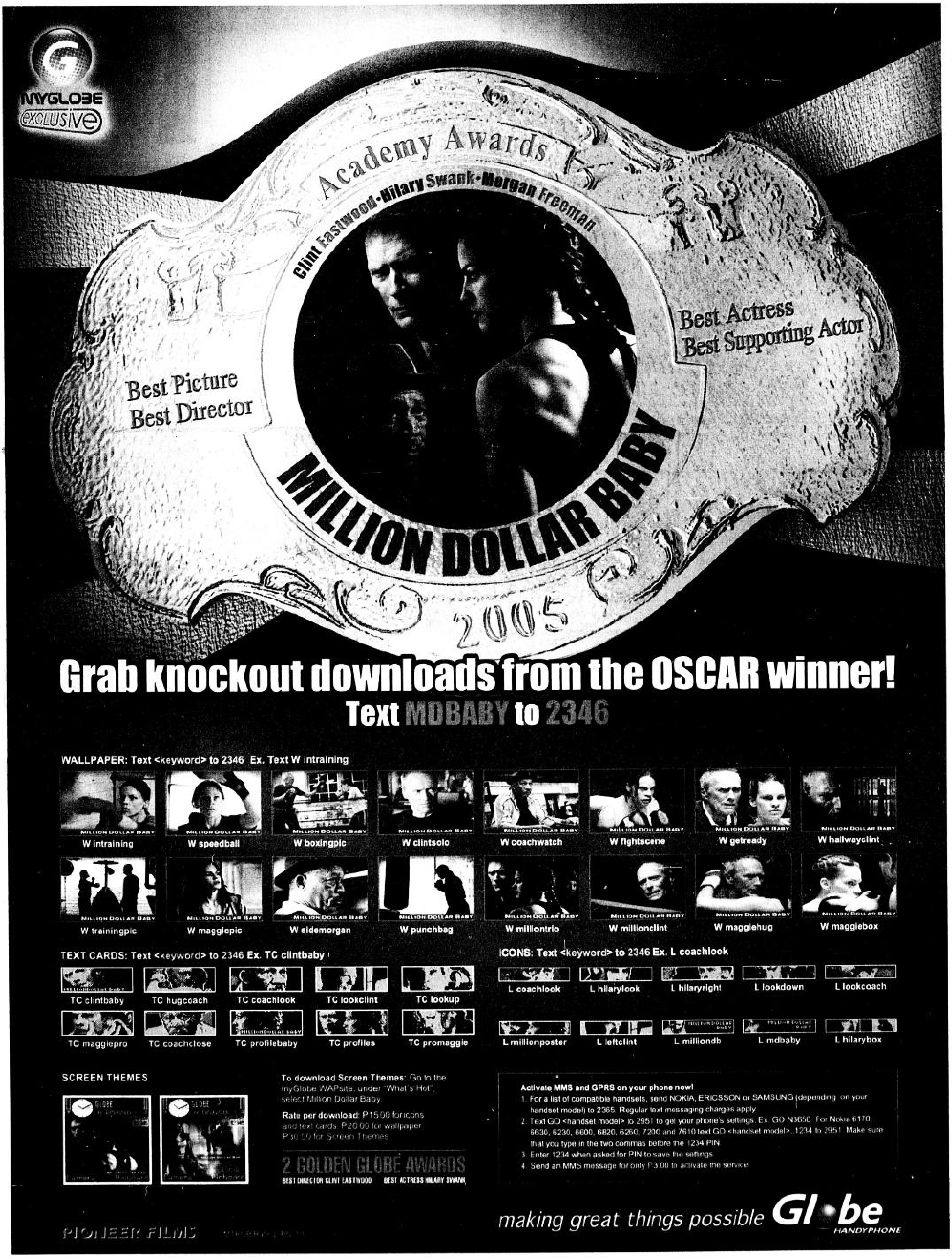
Rosales said it was time the DoH "seriously" looked into the threat posed on every patient's health by the operations done in "beauty clinics."

Talent manager and TV host Boy Abunda disagrees. "Liposuction is a globally accepted procedure already mastered by the experts."

He elaborated: "Personally, I'm scared of surgery. I can't stand blood and pain. But as a talent manager, I know where my *artistas* are coming from. Liposuction is something that has been studied very carefully and perfected. There are qualified doctors who do this.

"To undergo liposuction is a personal choice. A person who is willing to do it should be mature and emotionally prepared. I recently met women who would actually augment their bodies just because their boyfriends want them to. How immature can you get?"

SHOW BIZ/ A2-2



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Show biz split on 'lipo' issue

From page A2-1

Actor and Rizal Vice Gov. Jestoni Alarcon said the operations as conducted by beauty clinics should be carefully studied, "because a person's life is on the line."

Alarcon explained: "Problems arise when people who call themselves doctors perform surgery even if they are not authorized. Do we have to wait for more people to die before we take this issue seriously? I support Congresswoman Rosales in her campaign. The general welfare of the public should be top priority."

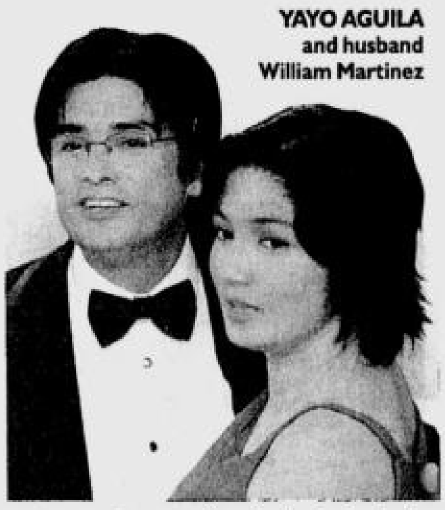
JESTONI ALARCON

VICKI BELO

Cosmetic surgeon Vicki Belo, who claims to have performed 15,000 liposuction operations in 15 years, accused lawmakers of "picking on us."

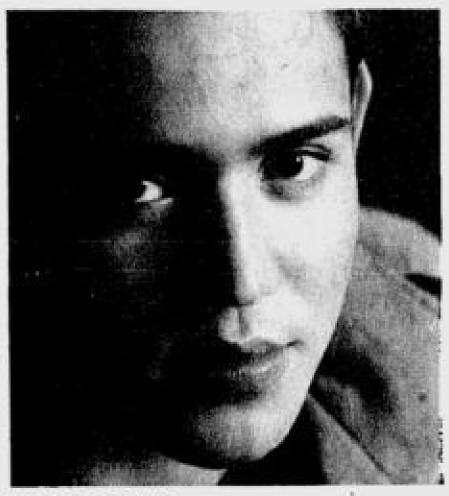
"I've been doing this for 15 years and have not had any problems, no mortality at all," Belo said. "I think these lawmakers are using us just to get attention. If they don't want people to die, they should ban smoking or driving cars. People get cancer and emphysema from cigarettes. People die of car accidents. People in government should stop trying to regulate medicine."

YAYO AGUILA and husband William Martinez



Actress Yayo Aguila admitted she had a tummy tuck in the past. She said her husband, actor William Martinez, had liposuction, too.

"What we do with our bodies does not affect the government," said Yayo. "I suggest that lawmakers look for ways to improve the country's economy instead. It's good that they are concerned about our welfare. But really, we have minds of our own and we know what's good for us. We don't use the government's money. We spend for our operations. They should simply let us be."



PAOLO CONTIS

Young actor Paolo Contis said he had never undergone an operation, but that he thought Rosales' proposal was "useless."

"People are given enough warning before they go under the knife. I don't think we need the DoH to warn us. It's the individual's choice."

ANDREA DEL ROSARIO

Viva Hot Babe Andrea del Rosario found some good in Rosales' proposal. She said cosmetic surgery in the country could now be studied thoroughly.

"I think majority of the people want to know what the DoH can do about this. What's a few months of suspension compared with the big number of surgery-related deaths?

"If people still want to do it, then let them. But they should be a certain age, and well informed. I've not tried liposuction myself. I keep fit by working out. I know I'd feel more insecure if I allowed doctors to alter my body."

Cosmetic surgeon Manuel Calayan insisted that the reported injuries and fatalities were "anesthesia-related."

"We follow guidelines and protocol. A patient first undergoes lab and physical exams, and obtain a cardio-pulmonary clearance. We're actually practicing the safest liposuction procedure in the world. In the Philippines, doctors extract only three liters of fat per operation, as compared with five liters in the US.

"Liposuction is a branch of surgery that goes with certain risks, but this is also true of neuro and obstetric surgeries. Why are they only after liposuction?"

(E-mail the author at mcruz@inquirer.com.ph)

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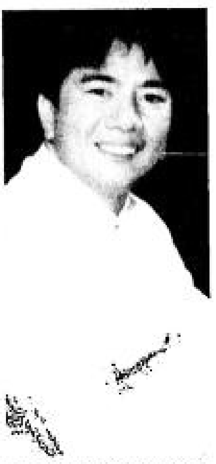


WILLIE REVILLAME

JOEY DE LEON

Stop bickering, networks told

By Marinel R. Cruz

MARISSA LAGUARDIA

CHAIR Marissa Laguardia of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) is "reminding" television networks to stop squabbling to avoid being sanctioned for "defamatory imputations."

In a memorandum dated March 4, 2005, Laguardia called on all the networks, especially bitter rivals ABS-CBN and GMA 7, to put a stop to "the endless bickering and name-calling."

Or else, she said, the networks would be penalized under Section 3, Par. C of the 1986 Presidential Decree that gives the MTRCB the power to "approve or disapprove, delete objectionable portions . . . that may be contrary to contemporary Filipino values . . . . and injurious to the prestige of the Republic of the Philippines or its people."

In the memo, the Censors chief said majority of show biz talk shows now focused on "personal bickering and/or heated word wars." She cited shows like "The Buzz," "ETK" and Wowowee" on ABS-CBN, and "Eat Bulaga!" and "S-Files" on GMA 7.

"Without necessarily curtailing the constitutional right of the industry's freedom of expression, the board reminds all concerned that there is limit to the exercise of freedom," Laguardia said.

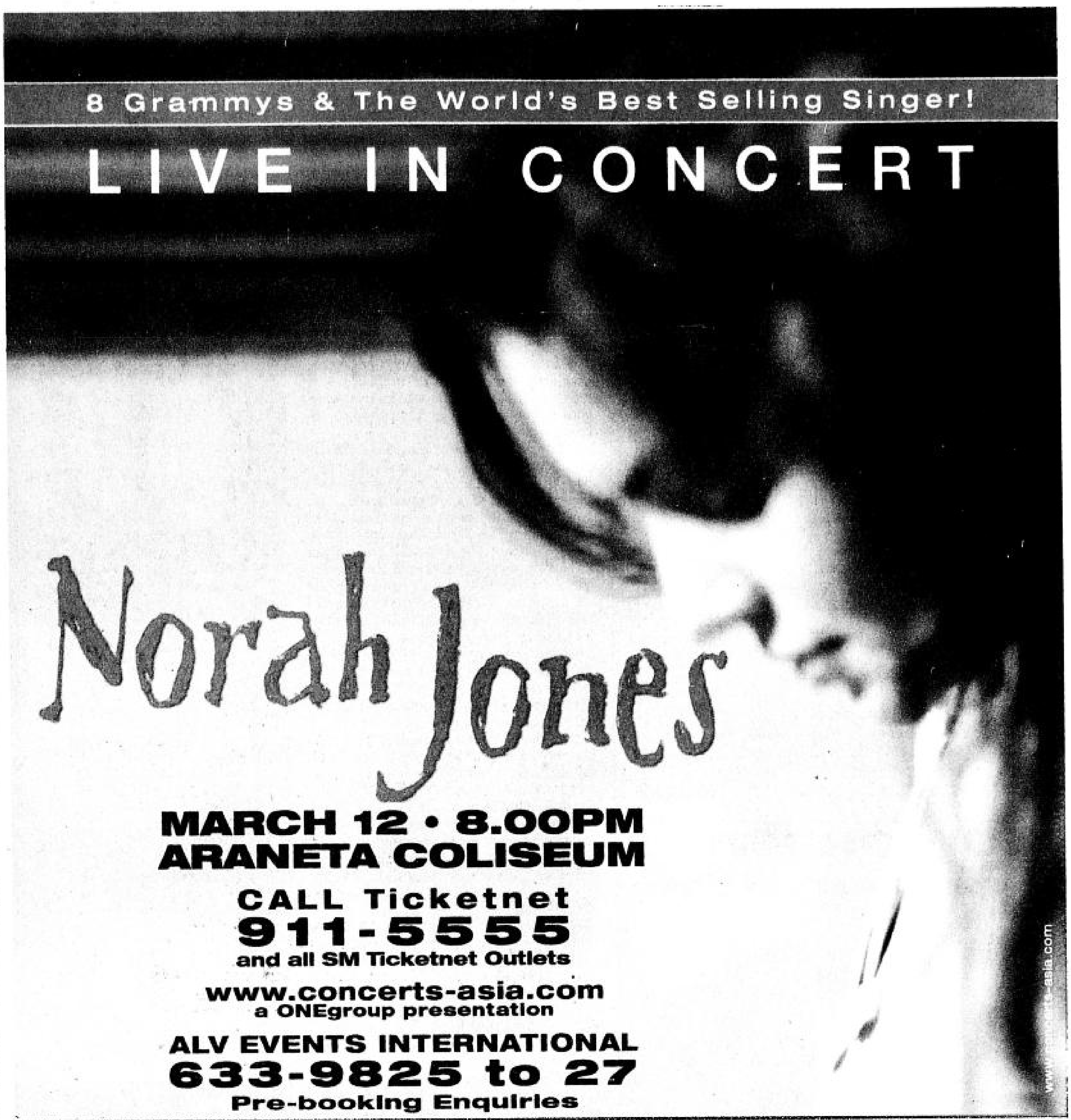
She said she invited "Wowowee" host Willie Revillame and Joey de Leon of "Eat Bulaga!" to the MTRCB office last Tuesday to discuss the matter. "Eat Bulaga!" producer Malu Choa-Fagar represented Joey, who was in Acapulco, Mexico.

"It was a healthy dialogue," Laguardia told INQUIRER Entertainment last Friday. "They were very receptive and willing to reform, especially Willie. Malu promised me that Joey would to the same. I guess they've learned from all their suspensions."

Both De Leon and Revillame have previously been suspended, the first for using "foul language," and the latter for "vulgar behavior" on their respective shows.

"This is a reminder for them to always be wholesome and to avoid as much as possible double-meaning jokes. This is to safeguard viewers, especially children who watch their shows," said Laguardia. "These hosts have a social responsibility to their audience."

(Email the author at mcruz@inquirer.com.ph.)



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Annabelle Rama: Mother Hen or Madwoman?

FASCINATING how image and reality can be such a complex mesh. If nothing else, it tells you that, indeed, thinking in black and white leaves you without the truth at hand. And that, as with everything in life, show biz cannot be understood if you go just by the obvious.

JUICE

Jo-Ann Q. Maglipon

Take **Annabelle Rama**—the woman all of show biz calls Tita Annabelle.

This is a woman who always seems to be slapping somebody with a lawsuit or is being slapped with one. The cases are all ongoing, too.

This is again a woman who engages in drag-down-knock-out fights on TV, where her mouth opens to a language of its own, which ends the show with high ratings and a dubious reputation.

Up close, she can be as scary. She is the type to tell reporters to their faces that they're bought, if she believes that, whether or not she has the facts. When she wants to confront you, letting a day pass—to count sheep and get bearings right like normal people do—is too much to ask. She will make that call. She will walk up to you. And she will have her say.

Not too far back, I interviewed her about the brawl her son **Richard Gutierrez** found himself in the middle of. And her parting words to me, in her gruff Tagalog, were: "*O, gandahan mo sulat mo, ha? Wag mo akong gawing kontrabida. Sabihin mo lang ang totoo.*"

I had to laugh. I hadn't met anyone like that before.

Over time, I understood a little more. This is a very literal woman. Everything to her is simple, direct, clear. You buy jewelry from her—she has showpieces to blind the eye—you pay, or she broadcasts your name on TV. You borrow money from her, you pay, or she drags you to court. You touch any of her kids, you pay, but not before you die from quaking.

She is a madwoman, all right.

Mothering

But also over time, I saw that she never gets credit for it, but she is in fact the most amazing of the Gutierrezes. She is why that family remains a family.

Eddie Gutierrez, 63, is a star who made the shift from pretty boy to solid actor, going from hero to villain and back, and doing handsomely as either. Everyone likes him because—unlike the other pretty boy of Sampaguita Pictures, **Jose Mari Gonzalez**, who in real life turned out to be so uncouth he once thought nothing of slapping the security officer of the House, leaving the senior fellow to stagger and nearly stumble off the stage—Eddie is a genuinely gentle giant.

But like most nice, very handsome men, he is spoiled. The wife makes things happen for him.

Richard Gutierrez is the biggest star property of GMA-7 and GMA Films, and at 21 is young enough to become wildly bigger in the future. He got his "gentleness," says his manager **Douglas Quijano**, from his father, and "having a mind of his own" from his mother.

The last manifested itself the day Richard himself declared that he wanted his Tito Dougs, not his mother, to manage his movie career. And in the way he has declared that his mom should not come to any of his sets. "*Nako*-conscious *iyong bata pag nandiyan ang nanay*," Douglas laughs.

But it is still mom who manages his hot TV career, and when big trouble disrupted his last birthday, it was again mom who burnt the lines with producers, friends, press, and lawyers.

When Ruffa Gutierrez, 30, had a career going here, right alongside a colorful love life, it was her mom Annabelle who played bad cop to Eddie's good cop. To this day, Annabelle is there for Ruffa. Whenever Ruffa needs her in Los Angeles, Annabelle makes the automatic shift to the "boring" life—her words—of mother and *lola*. Right now, she is in Istanbul because again Ruffa needs her, apart from the *yayas*, on the tiring flight back to Manila with kids Lorin and Venice.

The night I interviewed Annabelle about the brawl on Richard's birthday, we were interrupted by a distraught Ruffa calling from Istanbul. Ruffa wanted updates on her brother to the detail. Why have the police not found the guy in black who hit Richard? Why, even Yilmaz wanted to come over and help in the search already!

It is a tribute to the way Annabelle brought up Ruffa that this only daughter adores her brothers. For them, she bought a condominium in the States so that they had a home while they studied there. (Of course, that the condo had to be in Beverly Hills no less is also probably attributable to Annabelle.)

She is a mother hen, all right.

Loyalties

Annabelle's own show biz career never really took off, although one magazine of pre-martial law years had her in full nymphet glory: long, black hair up to the waist and nothing but. Well, her interest was never in a career anyway. Her only interest was always Eddie Gutierrez.

She herself likes to tell the story that she moved to Manila just to pursue Eddie, then

ANNABELLE/ A2-6

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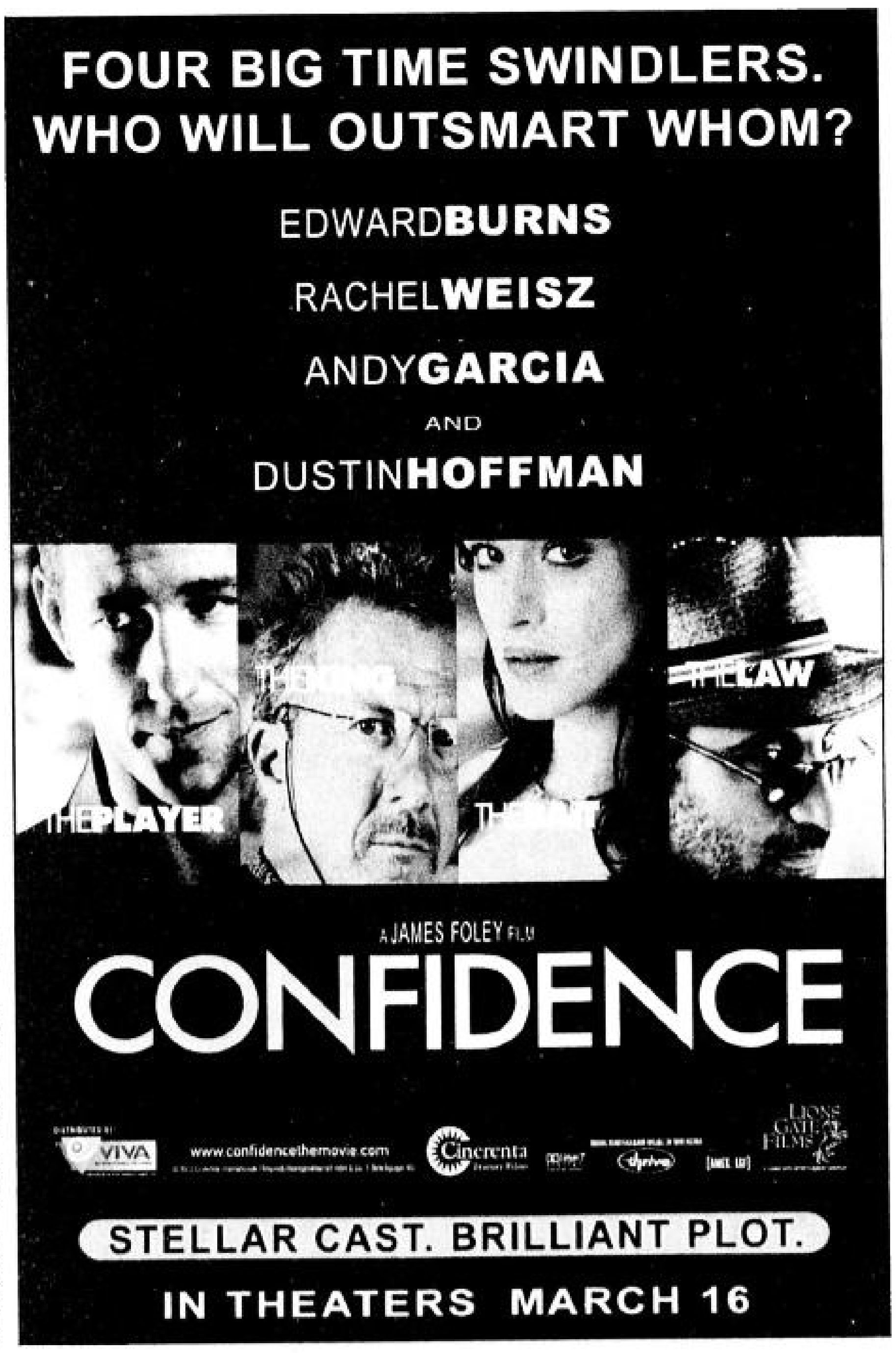

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Abangan!
Sangkatutak Na Saya Na May Kasunod Pa!

Eddie Gil pulls a 'Trojan Horse' in Baguio fest

By Vincent Cabreza and Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—Presidentiable-turned-singer/actor Eddie Gil may no longer be welcome to the next "Panagbenga," the city's annual flower festival, after he brought stars and starlets to last week's parade despite restrictions laid out by the organizers.

Celebrities, particularly movie stars, have been prohibited from joining the festival parades because of an incident last year.

Antonio Romawac, coordinator for the local tourism office, recounted that actor Cesar Montano rode one of the floats in 2004, but alighted at one point to mingle with the crowd, disrupting the parade.

Gil hid actress Alma Moreno and her son, actor Mark Anthony Fernandez, as well as former action star Ramon Zamora and the vaudeville team of the Big Three Sullivans inside a float that was part of the parade on Feb. 27. The float was promoting Gil's movie, "Pelukang Itim," which he topbills with Moreno.

By the time crowd control officials saw the actors and actresses emerging, it was too late, according to Benedicto Alhambra, acting city administrator. *"Na-Trojan Horse kami,"* he said.

Members of D'Bodies, a singing group composed of sexy starlets, and a group of male actors marched ahead of Gil's float. The girls wore mini skirts and boots, and proceeded to dance and sing lines from their song, "Kiliti."

Filmmaker Kidlat Tahimik, one of the coordinators, was annoyed. "We wanted to see flowers, not bodies," Tahimik said.

"The presence of movie stars in 'Panagbenga' [makes people forget the] essence of this cultural festival," said Raul Cortez, an events manager who designed one of the floats.

"We received complaints from parents," added Romawac. "The children didn't know who the dancing girls in mini skirts were, but the parents were furious. We are talking to Gil about this. He may end up a *persona non grata* in Baguio."

EDDIE GIL

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ALL AGES ADMITTED
2ND WEEK
THIS WEEK'S BOXOFFICE CHAMPION
"BABY" FEVER HITS MANILA
Please watch my movie
SON OF THE MASK
THE POWER OF MISCHIEF

Annabelle Rama: Mother Hen . . .

From page A2-4

a bigger matinee idol than his son Richard is now. She was Eddie's biggest fan in Cebu, and when she saw a write-up saying Eddie was soon marrying some rich man's daughter, she made her move. She wooed him to death.

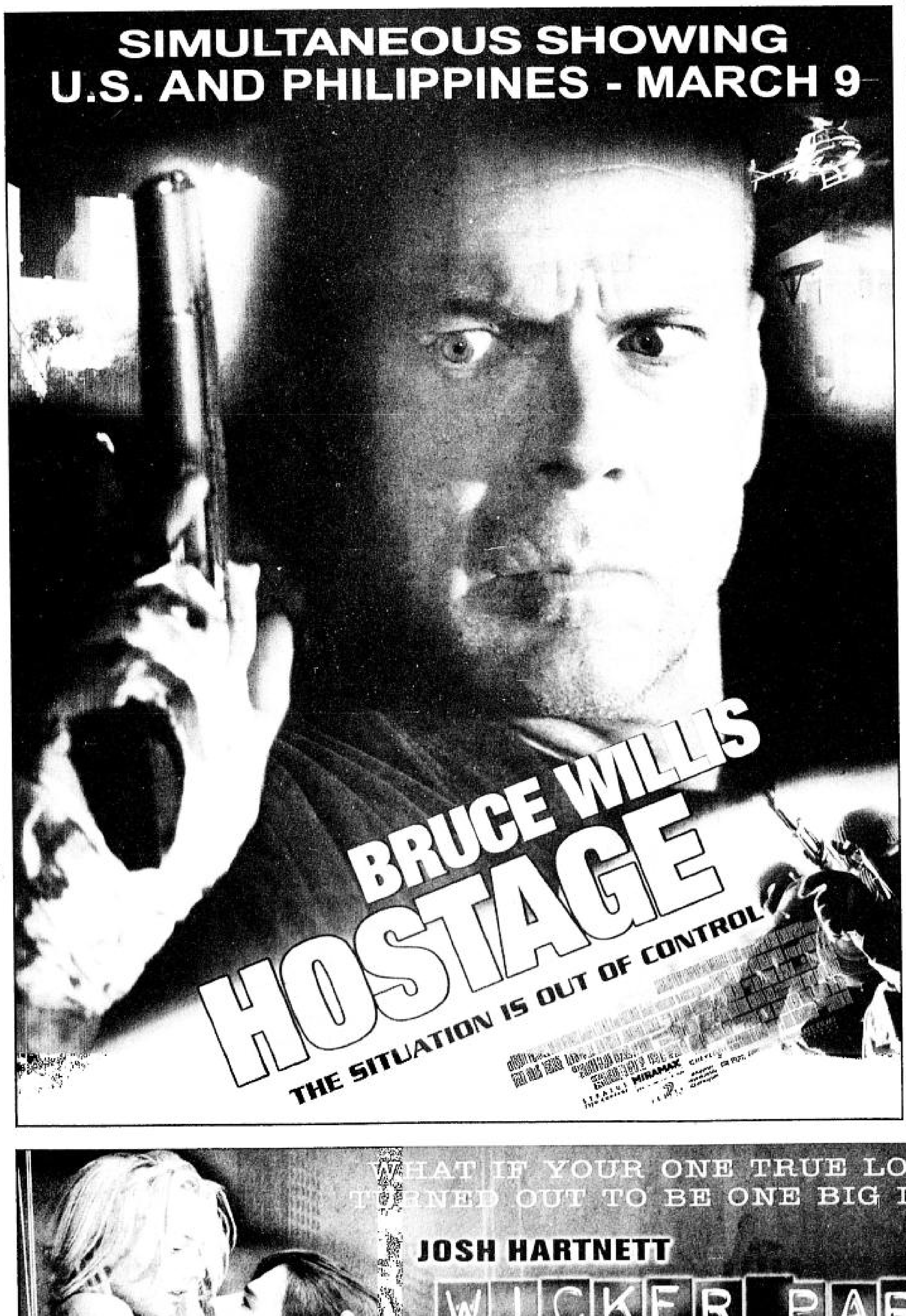
"Pinakulam ko nga si Eduardo," she reveals and, as everything else with her, that is literal.

Her loyalties are just as plain and bare. She remains an **Erap** diehard. And she so loves **Ronnie** and **Susan** that, even when everyone of their show biz friends had been asked not to go to the Manila Hotel where FPJ was to make his big announcement, there was no stopping her.

Looks, too, like she couldn't care less if she has to be in the fringes. Where she's concerned, she's a friend and friends have to be around for the big moments. Which probably also explains why she throws weddings with multiple godparents and birthday bashes with 11 *lechons*. For her own big moments, she likes being surrounded by her friends.

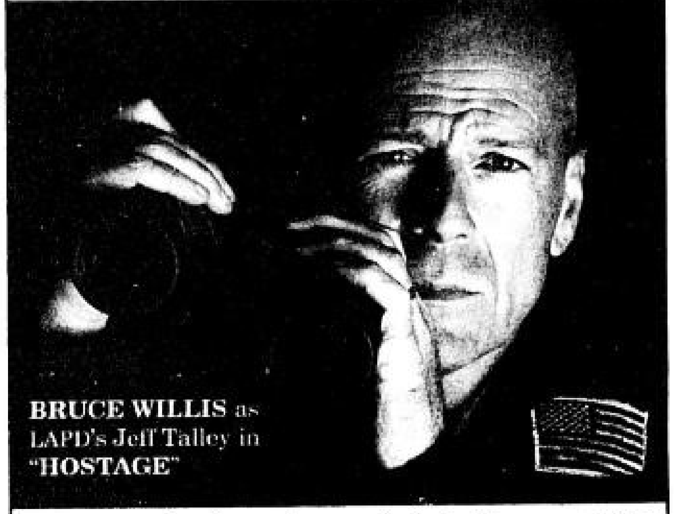
By the same token, her dislikes are big and broad. She will forever be remembered as the woman who rebuffed a solon attempting to question her about the Brunei beauties: *"Bakit mo ako tinatanong? Bakit ako sasagot? Bakit, nanay ba kita?"* It so stunned the Senate, the questioning stopped.

Leave it to Tita Annabelle to be both madwoman and mother hen. At 52, she is not about to change. She'll just keep on making us see that show biz will never be understood just by the obvious.


SIMULTANEOUS SHOWING
U.S. AND PHILIPPINES - MARCH 9
BRUCE WILLIS
HOSTAGE
THE SITUATION IS OUT OF CONTROL
MIRAMAX

" HOSTAGE"

Wrong place at the wrong time for Bruce Willis


BRUCE WILLIS as LAPD's Jeff Talley in **"HOSTAGE"**

The guy who always happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time is back. Only this time his name is not New York police department's John McClane (of DIE HARD fame) but LAPD's Jeff Talley.

Bruce Willis is back fighting terrorists in ***HOSTAGE*** from *MIRAMAX* films showing simultaneously in the USA and the PHILIPPINES on MARCH 9.

HOSTAGE represents the class of modern action pictures with a heart and the standard by which they must be judged. Not only is it a thrill-a-minute ride, but it has one of the baddest villains in recent memory, a hero everyone can relate to, dialogue that crackles with wit, and a lot of very impressive pyrotechnics.

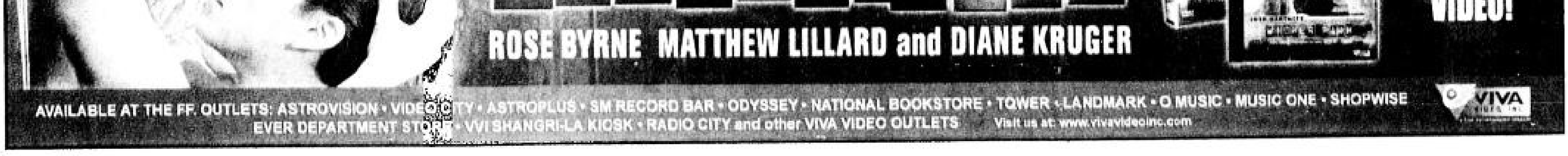
Bruce Willis is perfect for the role as the "everyday" sort of guy who gets caught up in circumstances that force him to play the reluctant hero. This is a person that we can root for, even when some of the things he's doing are humanly impossible. Willis' acting skills are limited, but it's hard to imagine anyone else in this role.

Devastated by a hostage situation that resulted in the deaths of a young mother and her child, LAPD's Jeff Talley (**Bruce Willis**) exits Los Angeles for a low-profile job as chief of police in the low-crime town of Bristo Camino in Ventura County.

When three delinquent teenagers follow a family home intending to steal their car, they inadvertently pick the wrong house on the wrong day. The trio find themselves trapped in a multi-million dollar compound on the outskirts of town owned by a corrupt accountant. Panicked, the teenagers take the family hostage, placing Talley in exactly the kind of situation he never wanted to face again.

Soon after, Talley readily hands authority of the hostage situation over to the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and leaves the scene. But inside the compound is digital information critical to the dangerous terrorists and their operation. They will stop at nothing to get what belongs to them, including taking Talley's family hostage, forcing him to resume the command he had abandoned. The stakes quickly evolve into a situation far more volatile and

ADVT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More relevant issues for youth films to tackle

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

DUE TO the country's youthful demographics, the Filipino film audience is made up predominantly of adolescents and teenagers. In the light of this reality, local producers should be bankrolling the production of youth and family films.

In general, however, this isn't the case, as sexy flicks continue to be made. And most of the teen movies that are produced are giddy romantic comedies or sniffly tearjerkers, *gimik/kilig*-oriented productions that depict only a narrow, shallow part of young Filipinos' increasingly complex lives.

We discussed this with our film students at the Asia Pacific Film Institute recently, and asked them to draw up a list of other themes and issues that teen or young-adult viewers want to see tackled on the big screen.

After an enthusiastic discussion, they came up with these suggestions:

1) Colonial mentality

2) Weakening family ties

3) Poverty and its effects on the youth

4) Child and youth labor

5) Quarter-life crisis

6) Family expectations

7) Peer pressure

8) What to do with your life

9) Freedom without responsibility

10) Premarital sex

11) How technology both connects and isolates

12) Excessive importance to trends and fads

13) Apathy

14) Lack of good education, and how it limits young people's awareness of reality and their future prospects

15) A quick-fix attitude

16) Convenience produces spoiled brats

17) Excessive individualism

18) Dream of a "better" life abroad

19) Drugs

20) Broken home lifestyle

21) Excessive fixation on celebrity and gossip

The youth have spoken. Will our filmmakers take their cue from their suggestions?

If they do come up with relevant youth films, they could also enjoy the patronage of the larger family audience, since some concerned parents and educators would want to also see those movies with the young people under their care, so they can discuss them together afterwards.

'R' is out

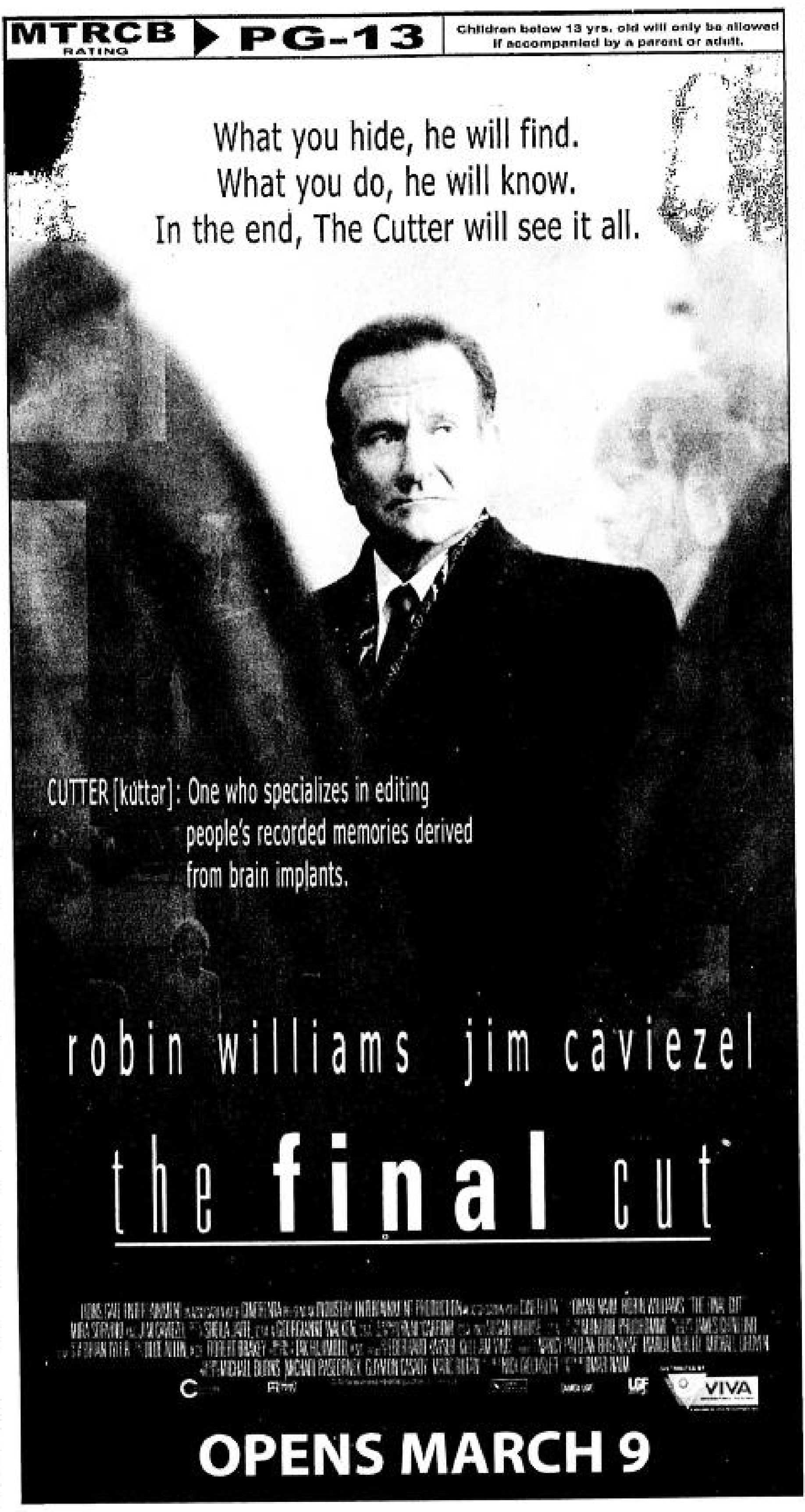
IN CONNECTION with our first item above, we've just learned that, of the top 10 highest-grossing movies produced in the States last year, only one ("The Passion of the Christ") was classified "R" (For adults only), while the nine other were either GP or PG-13.

US film analysts conclude from this statistics that "R" is out. To reach the widest possible film market, movies should aim for a less restrictive classification. So, excessively sexy and violent movies have become major losers in today's film game.

(It's ironic, of course, that "Passion," a religious movie, is the only "R"-rated top-grosser in the list. But it merited an "R" due to its visual violence, which filmmaker **Mel Gibson** felt was important to highlight, so viewers could experience in a vivid, visceral way how terribly Jesus Christ suffered on the cross, in order to redeem mankind.)

'Design 360'

AT 2:30 p.m. today, "Design 360" on CNN features British designers whose works cater to Royalty, with key sequences shot inside Kensington Palace. Other features are on Royal Family; beneficiaries of Queen Elizabeth's Scholarship Trust; royal portraitist **Michael Noakes**, and the Queen's couture designers, **Karl Ludwig Rehse** and **Stewart Parvin**.


MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
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What you hide, he will find.
What you do, he will know.
In the end, The Cutter will see it all.
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robin williams jim caviezel
the final cut
VIVA
OPENS MARCH 9

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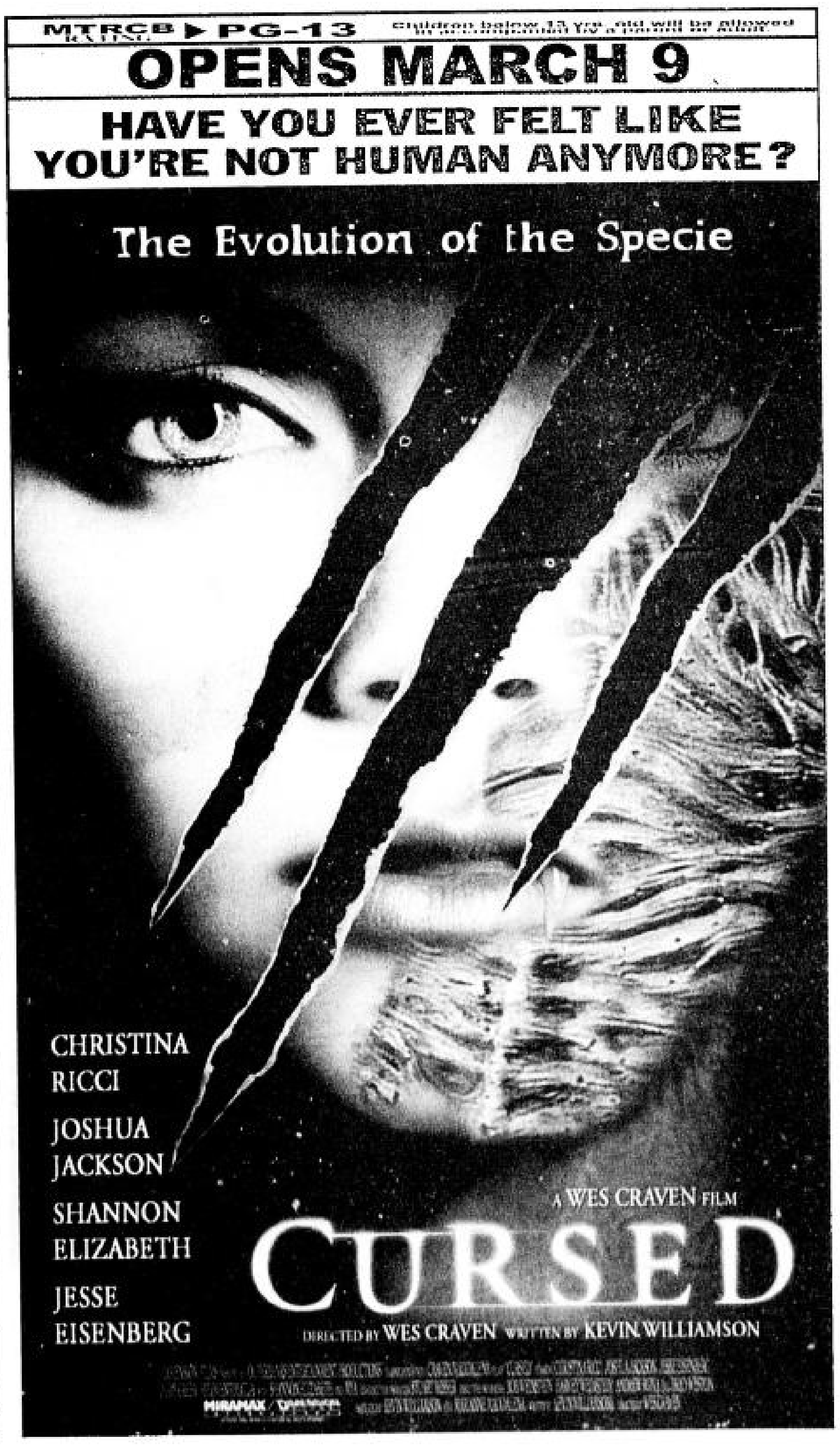
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The Evolution of the Specie
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Kristine Hermosa	KRISTINE	Chesca Garcia	CHESCA	Katya Santos	KATYA
Marvin Agustin	MARVIN	Christian Bautista	CHRISTIAN	Gwen Garci	GWEN
Dominic Ochoa	DOMINIC	Regine Tolentino	REGINET	Andrea del Rosario	ANDREA
Robin Padilla	ROBIN	Kitchie Nadal	KITCHIE	Myles Hernandez	MYLES
Judy Ann Santos	JUDAY	Giselle Sanchez	GISELLE	Asia Agcaoili	ASIA
Sarah Geronimo	SARAH	Francine Prieto	FRANCINE	Ella V	ELLA
Bea Alonzo	BEA	Jessa Zaragoza	JESSA	Jen Rosendahl	JEN
John Lloyd Cruz	JOHNLLOYD	Mark Bautista	MARK	Viva Hotmen	HOTMEN
Claudine Barretto	CLAUDINE	Rachelle Ann Go	RACHELLE	Jaycee Parker	JAYCEE
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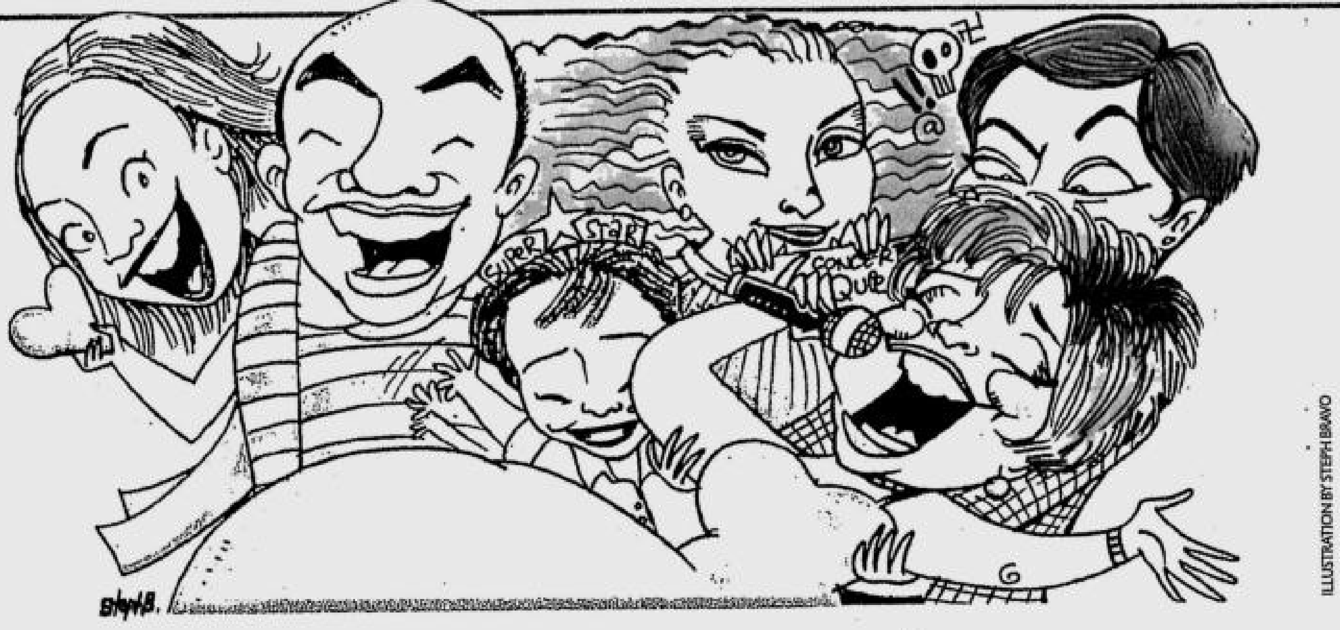


ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Imaginary crowns and scepters

By Alex Y. Vergara

CHEER FACTOR

WHEN it comes to coining titles, possibly no other people in the world take the activity as seriously and as creatively as Filipinos do. We never seem to run out of catchy labels, whether referring to someone's achievements or station in life, or to another person's appearance and idiosyncrasies.

It comes as no surprise then, that fans and spin doctors alike from the world of make-believe (a.k.a. Philippine show biz) continue to dish out titles—from the refreshingly original and apropos, to the downright silly—to depict *artistas'* gifts and exploits or drum up achievements, real or imagined.

One title that is forever etched in the annals of local Tinseltown is "Superstar," thanks in no small way to the dark and diminutive Nora Aunor, who continues to sport such a big word although her show biz luster has waned considerably.

Even before superstar became a generic term, Noranians appropriated it for their idol. And rightly so, since no single word could better describe the plain but extremely talented performer's tremendous impact on and contributions to an industry once dominated by tall *mestizas*.

For the longest time, a title-less Vilma Santos had to play second fiddle to her tsunami of a rival that was Nora. That was until Vilma slowly but surely clawed her way to the top a few years later, becoming the country's undisputed "Box-Office Queen" for several movie seasons.

Such was Vilma's feat, that she was hailed as the only woman in an all-boys' club of big-time moneymakers composed of "Da King" (Fernando Poe Jr.), the "King of Comedy" (Dolphy) and the "Wonder Kid" (Niño Muhlach). But appellations based on statistics could prove fleeting, as Vilmanians were to find out.

A younger, more popular Sharon Cuneta eventually elbowed Ate Vi out of the box-office race. The latter's drum-beaters had to think of a more fitting title for her. Thankfully, they didn't resort to calling her "Eskinol Girl." Instead, they came up with "Star for all Seasons"—and it stuck, being a fitting tribute to the longevity of Vilma's career and the respect that she continues to enjoy from both her peers and the public.

Despite Sharon's immense popularity, there could only be one "Superstar." Sharonians were aware of this, so they did Noranians better by branding their idol "Megastar." The mammoth label in no way pertained to Sharon's famous heft, but to her unmatched "tri-media" prowess—in TV, recording and the movies.

Morphing

It took some time before Maricel Soriano, initially tagged "Taray Queen," to morph into the "Diamond Star." Although she and Sharon were contemporaries, their supposed rivalry was nowhere near as celebrated as that of Nora and Vilma, Vilma and Nora.

Despite her reputation as a ham actress, the lovely Alma Moreno became known as "Shining Star." When wearing the *tanga* on prime time TV became the norm among dancing female stars, Alma, the exceptional dancer that she was, later ascended the dance floor as the "Tanga Queen."

Which brings us to another "queen." Before she was crowned "Queen of Talk," the perennially controversial Kris Aquino reigned as "Massacre Queen" for her portrayals of true-life sensational crime victims in several "massacre

IMAGINARY/ A3-2

Million dollar complications

By Naughty 'n' Nice

REVIEW

(Only in INQUIRER Entertainment, weekly starting today: Movie reviews by Naughty 'n' Nice, your average movie-going Pepe en Pilar.)

"Million Dollar Baby"
Directed by Clint Eastwood

NAUGHTY SAYS:

SO the movie won four Oscars—Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress (Hilary Swank) and Best Supporting Actor (Morgan Freeman).

But in the words of this woman who was blowing her nose in the toilet after the feature, "It's not a feel-good movie.".

Tell that to Martin Scorsese, who should have won Best Director for "The Aviator."

No, I have not seen that movie. But I have seen "Gangs of New York" and "Taxi Driver," both Scorsese films.

I myself had to take a happy pill halfway through "Million Dollar Baby." Then I went shopping, dragging an unwilling Nice with me, who was kicking and screaming, because she only had two vegetarian siopao for lunch and her blood sugar was low.

We ate vegie *pancit canton* and *lumpia* for *merienda*, and had a relaxing foot reflexology massage after.

The foot treat was bliss; the movie, sad.

I think it's because Maggie (Swank) had an ungrateful trailer trash family, Frank (Eastwood) had a daughter who refused to speak to him, and Freeman, after making so many movies and so much money, has not had those warts zapped from his face.

In many instances, the movie is very much like any local *telenovela*.

I do like two things about it, though. One, Clint Eastwood cries. Can you imagine Dirty Harry with snot dripping from his left nostril? Two, someone pleads for euthanasia, and guess who pulls the plug?

NICE SAYS:

I've always been a sucker for "follow your bliss" movies. When boxing hopeful and waitress Maggie starts bagging her customer's leftovers so she could have them for dinner and save money for a boxing speedball, I admire her determination.

Feed your million dollar dreams, baby.

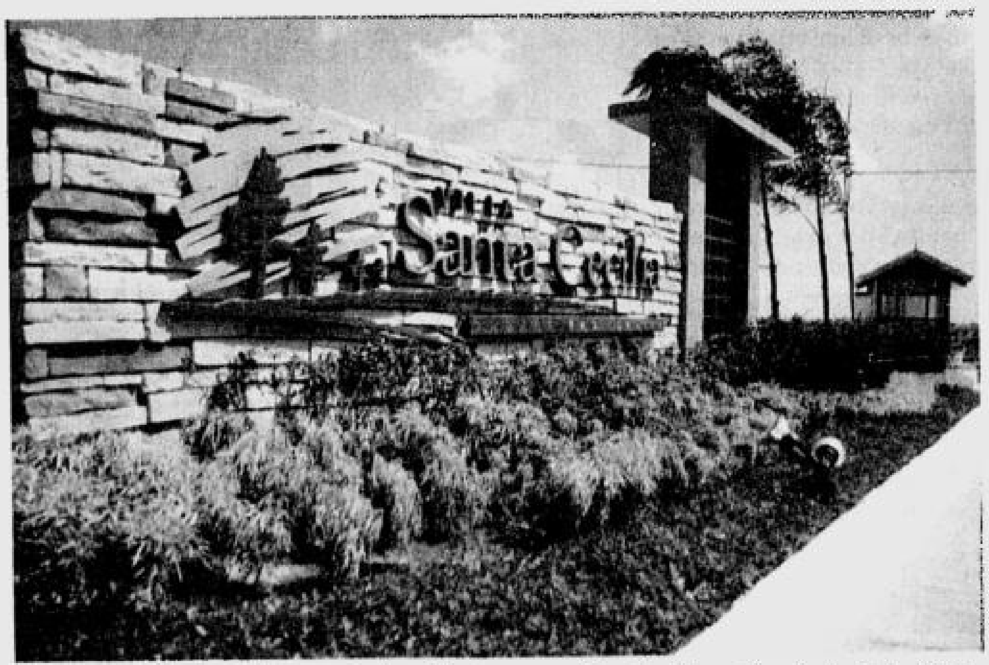
Then she goes to the store with bunches of coins wrapped in paper to buy the ball. That's when I realize this movie is going to be full of clichés.

Because if one really wants something now, one uses a credit card, gets a layaway plan, borrows from a friend, or goes to a second-hand specialty store. Our heroine is determined to be the best female boxer in the world and she picks a sexist trainer and gym owner. Why him, when he like, hates women?

"Go find another trainer," he

MILLION/ A3-2

Villa Sta. Cecilia features timeless Pinoy theme



Villa Santa Cecilia gate : Villa Santa Cecilia is 15 minutes away from the Alabang Town Center via the Cavite-Laguna link road.

In keeping with its track record of building communities that last, property developer LPHI has adopted a timeless Filipino theme for its latest housing project in the southern portion of Greater Manila. The new look of Villa Santa Cecilia homes which incorporates capiz-inspired shutters and latticework will be unveiled to the public today, March 6, in a day-long open house right at the site.

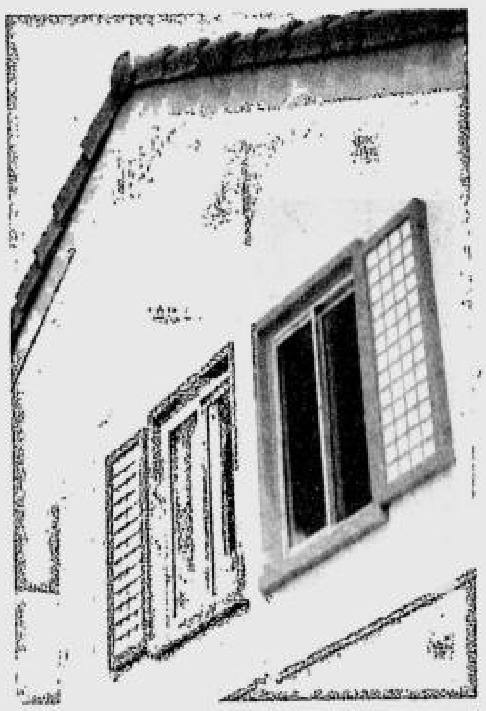
Less than 20 minutes from the Alabang Town Center via the Cavite-Laguna link road (Daang Hari National Road), Villa Santa Cecilia is a 23-hectare masterplanned community in Dasmariñas, Cavite, offering house-and-lot units. It is a sequel to the very popular Sta. Catalina Village, another LPHI project which was snapped up in record time by buyers attracted to its proximity to Makati and other business centers.

Veering away from the usual Mediterranean or Western motif, the Ayala Land subsidiary has opted to integrate elements found in traditional Filipino homes into the Villa Santa Cecilia units. Aside from the window shutters and latticework, the homes also adopt the earth colors of the traditional *bahay na bato*. Ranging in price from ₱950,000 to ₱1.3 million, "the dressed up units more authentically reflect the values and aspirations of homeowners," according to project manager Prim Nolido.

In addition, Villa Santa Cecilia homes have integrated a number of other improvements. These include: cement roof tiles which provide better sound insulation from rain as well as protection from the heat; higher ceilings to further improve air circulation; painted walls and a tiled kitchen counter. "These modifications provide homeowners a better quality of life as well as allow them to move in immediately to the units upon turnover," observes LPHI President Dinna Bayangos. She added that the changes reflect the LPHI culture of continuous improvement.

Villa Santa Cecilia is attracting young executives, entrepreneurs, OFWs and their families. As with other LPHI developments, they appreciate Villa Santa Cecilia's 24-hour security and other amenities that are maintained through the years because LPHI institutes a system for village management. On top of this, the original community design adheres to time-tested standards that contribute to quality of life. Among these are full perimeter walls and efficient drainage and water systems. A clubhouse, basketball court, children's playground, gazebo and jogging trails contribute as well to the satisfaction of homeowners.

Available for viewing at Villa Santa Cecilia are three model units that range from 33 sqm. up to 50 sqm. Lot sizes range from 90 sqm. up to 105 sqm. LPHI Vice-President for Sales Ricky Celis will explain the benefits offered by the units to interested guests in today's open house.



Villa Santa Cecilia's capiz-inspired shutters and latticework recall features of the traditional *bahay na bato*.

LPHI homes make use of a British building system with a proven track record for quality here and abroad.

Villa Santa Cecilia is a short drive to SM Dasmariñas, Robinson's, La Salle Dasmariñas, and Metro South Medical Center.

The Filipino-themed units make use of a British-invented building system called Tex which has a proven track record for quality here and abroad. Homes may be purchased through in-house financing, Pag-ibig loan and bank loan.

For more information, call 864-5744 or visit their website www.lphi.com.ph.

ALPHI
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Imaginary crowns and scepters

From page A3-1

movies" by Carlo J. Caparas. She may lack depth as an actress, but for some strange reason, Kris, singsong speech and all, helped infuse much-needed blood to an ailing industry when her movies made, well, a killing of massacre proportions at the tills.

For a time, Kris was also known as "Super Nova," a reference, perhaps, to her supporters' desire to position her as the next Sharon. They had to be kidding, right? "Tasya Pantasya" would have been more like it. And before Kris and "King of Talk" Boy Abunda lorded it over the talk show scene, there was the late Inday Badiday who reigned supreme as "Queen of Intrigues."

Not a few stars of yesteryears were christened either by their studios or the movie press by virtue of their on-screen personas. The more popular ones: "The Great Profile" for Leopoldo Salcedo; "The Face that Refreshes," Susan Roces; "Agent X44," Tony Ferrer; "Palos," Bernard Bonnin; "Alembong," Lita Gutierrez, and "Galawgaw," Nida Blanca.

Of more recent vintage, Robin Padilla became known as "Bad Boy of Philippine Movies," and Rosanna Roces as "Flawless." There couldn't be a more flawed title to describe the coarse Osang.

Philippine show biz has also had—and continues to churn out—Hollywood clones (not entirely the *artistas'* fault): "Charlie Chaplin of the Philippines," Canupling; "Elizabeth Taylor of the Philippines," Amalia Fuentes; "Audrey Hepburn of the Philippines," Barbara Perez; "James Dean of the Philippines," Lou Salvador Jr., and "Elvis Presley of the Philippines," Eddie Mesa.

Before several wags began tagging Bert Nievera as "Estafa King" for dashing off to the United States, leaving behind a trail of unpaid debts, the singer was known as the "Johnny Mathis of the Philippines." Son Martin Nievera, of course, is "Concert King," while his (Martin's) estranged wife Pops Fernandez is "Concert Queen."

> Filipino fans and spin doctors never run out of titles for *artistas*

Instead of contesting the "Concert King" tag, Gary Valenciano became known as "Mr. Pure Energy." The classy Kuh Ledesma emerged as the country's "Pop Diva," while the soulful Zsa Zsa Padilla assumed the tag "Divine Diva." No, this doesn't mean she intends to do gospel songs.

Speaking of singers, long before Regine Velasquez became "Asia's Songbird," Pilita Corrales was the one and only "Asia's Queen of Song."

Because of Regine's ability to summon up vocal pyrotechnics in a heartbeat, she has lately been referred to as "Birit Queen." Her ability to hit high notes was briefly threatened by a more controlled, but equally intense, "Nightingale" in the person of the now semi-retired Lani Misalucha.

In fact, the music (and comedy) world has become a rich source of "royal" titles, as talent managers and record companies think up new ways for their talents to stand out in a very crowded field, indeed.

To illustrate: "Pop Princess," Sarah Geronimo; "Prince of Pop," Eric Santos; "R&B Princess," Kyla; "R&B Prince," Jay-R; "Queen of Soul," Jaya; "King of Soul," Janno Gibbs; "King of Rap," Francis Magalona, and "Comedy Concert Queen," Ai-Ai de las Alas.

Less Royal

Of course, there are some singers sporting less royal titles: "Soul Siren," Nina; "The Vamp," Vernie Varga, and "Sentimental Songstress," Imelda Papin.

The bold bandwagon also produced members of royalty: "Pene King," Mark Joseph; "ST Queen," Gretchen Barretto, and "Sisid Queen," (Assunta de Rossi).

"Pene," of course, is short for penetration, which Mark did without compunction in several underground porn flicks. For young kids out there, ST is short for "sex trip," a popular phrase coined in the late 1980s by the late movie scribe Oskee Salazar. "Sisid" (dive) was inspired by Asunta's movie of the same title.

Finally, entertainers who tripped the light fantastic also wore imaginary crowns and carried invisible scepters: former beauty queen and onetime dancer Charlene Gonzales became known as "Dance Empress," and ballroom stalwart Becky Garcia sashayed on TV as "Lambada Queen."

But what really took the name-game business to absurd heights was Mystica proclaiming herself as "Split Queen," and dancer-turned-choreographer Geleen Eugenio declaring that she's now "D' Legend of Pop Dance." Say what?

For all their chutzpah, title-makers past and present are no match to the irrepressible Melanie Marquez, who once announced in an interview how proud she was of dad, movie director Artemio Marquez, who was ailing at the time: "As far as I know, my father is the only living legend *na buhay* (who's alive)!" Certainly beats "Mega Queen of the Super Divine Legend" any day.

(E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph)

Million dollar complications

From page A3-1

insists. Instead, she pays for six months of gym membership. They never throw her out even when she's hogging the punch bag. Aren't there gym rules or something?

Frank's other male protégés, he grooms into perfect fighters but hates to put them in world-class bouts because it's a dirty world out there (too commercial) and even when you've been declared the winner, your opponent can still punch you in the back and you'll end up paralyzed.

"Protect yourself always" is his dictum.

He knows how to motivate a fighter, he can fix a broken nose and nurse a swollen eye. But inside, he is a poet and lover of Yeats and Gaelic yore. He is a regular churchgoer, feeling guilty about something he must have done in the past, the parish priest muses. He must have been a demanding and cruel father, having been estranged from his daughter for so long. He regularly writes her letters, and she regularly sends them back unopened.

Reluctant mentor

"Don't ask questions and don't come crying to me when you get hurt," he tells Maggie. From then on Frank becomes her reluctant mentor. She's past her prime at 31 and "it shows." Therefore, it's going to be a lot of work for everybody, including the audience.

One doesn't leave this movie loving boxing or even just admiring the people who give their lives to it. That alone makes it a failure.

The viewer should be made to understand what sends this hapless waitress and trailer park girl to the world of punches and counter punches. The film never establishes this. In contrast, we empathize with Richard Gere in "Shall We Dance" because we are shown that loneliness and boredom drove him to tango training. And we went along with him.

Such a lack makes Maggie's training and rope-skipping exhausting to watch. She works at it way beyond gym hours when the lights have been dimmed. Another cliché in film grammar.

Why does she find joy in such a violent activity? Why the fascination for pain?

Is it to win back her father's love and approval? To get fit? To make a punch bag out of her obese mom?

Before her final bout, Frank asks Maggie if they should take a plane or drive to get to their destination. She decides, "Fly to get there and drive to get back."

The movie's pacing is pretty much the same way. The first part is fast and comfortable, the second part painfully slow and tortuous.

But what an ingenious suicide attempt! Look, Ma, no hands.

Yet the audience neither weeps nor feels relieved when Maggie's suffering ends.

Some dialogues between Frank and Scrap (Freeman) are charming as everyday talk, but they are not sustained. There's also this good night-drive scene where, Maggie tells Frank how much she loved her father and her dog Axel. The lighting gently sweeps in and out of the windshield, in sharp contrast to blinding headlights that often come with such scenes. The fight choreography is also snappy and compact.

Show me the money

If there is a question that I have taken home from the movie, it is: What do people do with their money?

Frank asks Scrap, who's wearing socks with holes: "What do you do with all the money I give you?" Frank also asks Maggie, after she's won many bouts, where her money is—she lives in a crappy apartment and she's "got no TV!"

Frank himself has saved enough.

Who determines success? Family, mentor or one's self?

What determines success? Money, health or the fulfillment of dreams?

What determines a family?

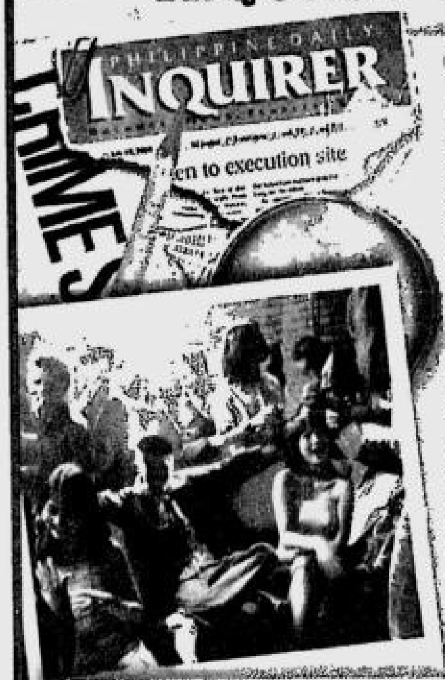
What do you do with toxic loved ones?

When the final test comes, does Maggie emerge the victor although she fails to put up a good final fight—and, instead, drags her reluctant mentor yet again into it?

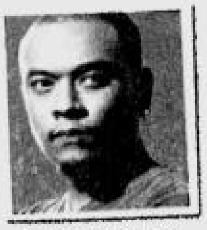
The movie leaves more questions than answers. Unfortunately, they're the annoying kind.

(Do you want to say anything about a current movie? E-mail your comments to: feedback@inquirer.com.ph)

CLINT Eastwood, Morgan Freeman and Hilary Swank
PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.HOLLYWOOD.COM



MURDER VICTIM: JERSON MORALES



-INQUEST FILES-

CHAPTER 1: Purple is the Color of Death

1:42 a.m. March 5. The party has just started to ignite and you weave your way through a wall of fashionably-clad people. As your body rubs against fragments of denim, nylon and leather, a dark and musky scent assaults your nostrils while someone's alcopop accidentally catches your sleeve. Finally, however, you find a place to stake out in the dimly lit and smoke-filled room of the Purple Pear, the chicest nightspot in the city.

As the electric atmosphere of the Purple Pear dares the all-nighters to lose their inhibition, you snap pictures of the nightlife unfolding before your eyes, and find yourself pulsating in almost perfect synchronicity with the men and women as they groove to the hypnotic sound enveloping the scene.

However, an hour later, as the energy inside the Purple Pear reaches a dizzying frenzy and the last thing on anyone's mind is to call it a night, a commotion of a different nature makes its presence felt. There is a scream. A shuffling of feet. Voices in panic. No one knows for sure which came first. But all realize why.

Lifeless in a shadowy section of a parking lot just outside the bar, and sprawled between two sporty sedans, is the body of 28-year old Jerson Morales, his blood spilling out on the asphalt.

You met Jerson in college when he was a Management student. He was exacting yet easy going. Challenging yet charming. He exuded an air of relaxed purpose, an aura that seemed to intrigue some but attract most. Although you were never really friends, you moved in the same circles, and would bump into each other wherever a cold drink and clever conversation mixed.

That night, seeing his lifeless body, you wonder who could do this to a guy who was always liked, always the life of the party. Questions race through your mind: With whom did Jerson meet? With whom did he speak on his cell phone? Why was he not his usual spirited self the whole evening? Why would anyone want to see him dead?

You frantically search your memory for anything to help you piece the puzzle together. And as you're wont to do, you go with your gut as a number of faces and events randomly come to mind.

Didn't you detect the anger in his brows when you caught him with the victim?

How about her? Wasn't she self-conscious with Jerson when she fished out something from her purse?

How many furtive glances did he throw at Jerson, and why did he seem intent at eavesdropping at the conversations he made?

Was that distress on her face when she exchanged words with Jerson on the dance floor? Or was it desperation?

Didn't he cast Jerson a contemptuous look as he comforted the woman on the dance floor after her confrontation with Jerson?

And this young woman. You don't recall seeing her at the Purple Pear until that night, but she was sharing what appeared to be a tense moment with him.

Suddenly the scenes you recall are imbued with new meanings. Could anyone of them have anything to do with the murder of Jerson Morales? Or did you just have too much to drink?

You decide that night that you're going to do some serious sleuthing yourself. And while you fear this may be just out of your league, your sense of justice—a trait that you've both been admired for and warned against—propels you to take on the role of the accidental detective.

Read the METRO NEWS on Monday, March 7, for a report on the murder of Jerson Morales and check out the LIFESTYLE SECTION on Wednesday, March 9, for CHAPTER 2 of our ongoing mystery.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit #1123, Series of 2005

The passion of Laurice Guillen

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Contributor

"THEY ARE all so passionate," said Director Laurice Guillen of the youthful filmmakers participating in an exhibition of independent movies dubbed Cinemalaya, set June 12 to 17 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The festival/competition is spearheaded by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), Philippine Multi-Media Systems, Inc. (PMSI), and Film Development Council of the Philippines (FDCP).

"They discussed the filmmaking process with so much enthusiasm," Guillen said.

The discussion took place during a forum set up by Unitel's Tony Gloria at Greenbelt's My Cinema—where they showed the young filmmakers various technologies available, should they decide to "blow up" to 35mm their movies shot with Mini-DV cameras.

Gil Portes, another award-winning director who attended the event, was overheard whispering to Guillen: "They will replace us…"

To which Guillen retorted, with obvious pride: "*Mismo!*"

DIRECTING Hilda Koronel in "Kung Mahawi Man Ang Ulap," 1984

WITH old show biz pals and young actor Yul Servo

New blood needed

Guillen, chair and CEO of the FDCP, a government body mandated to "look after" local cinema, said being with younger counterparts energized her. Cinemalaya was envisioned precisely to give the ailing movie industry a much-needed shot-in-the-arm, she noted.

"This can be done only by infusing the industry with new ideas, new blood," she said.

Almost all of the 10 finalists in the festival's full-length feature film category are neophytes, except for Clodualdo del Mundo Jr., who wrote "Maynila sa Kuko ng Liwanag" in the '70s for Lino Brocka. For Cinemalaya, he made "Pepot Artista."

"Most are 30 and younger," Guillen said. If only for their dedication, dynamism, and derring-do, she added, we might say Philippine cinema is in good hands. "This is an entirely new generation of filmmakers whom mainstream movie makers and moviegoers are not aware of. They have a totally different orientation, and perspective on filmmaking. They're not bothered by such pronouncements as, 'The local film industry is dead!'"

Nothing raises Guillen's ire more than that statement. "The industry is not dead!" she bristled. "We are expecting a decrease in output. But 30 percent of that are the bold movies."

(The decline of R-rated fare was sparked by major mall chain SM's shift to "wholesome and pro-family" programming.)

> Nothing gets this director's goat more than declarations that the local movie industry is dead

"Besides," Guillen added, "we are not the only ones with this problem." She showed INQUIRER Entertainment a text message she recently received from a colleague: "Hong Kong, third largest movie producer in the world [after] Hollywood and Bollywood, is also facing a crisis. From an all-time high [output] of over 300 films [a year] in the late '80s and early '90s, HK released 64 movies last year. [And] piracy is a global crisis."

Local movie production dropped from 200 to 30 movies a year.

In any case, Guillen said, "It's the quality of the output that matters."

On that note, Cinemalaya should give serious Pinoy film buffs a good reason to celebrate.

With the P500,000 that the PMSI gave each of the participants as seed money, they finished their projects to their satisfaction.

Beyond Cinemalaya, there is a slew of indie filmmakers doing their work efficiently sans fanfare.

In the can are Peque Gallaga's "Pinoy Blonde," Dante Mendoza's "Masahista," Ellen Ongkeko's "Pusang Gala," and Mia Buenaventura's "Gantsilyo," among the more notable works.

Aside from the competition proper, the FDCP intends to host a film expo and market, a film congress, and othet related events during Cinemalaya.

Guillen's work as FDCP chair and CEO entails a lot of work that could defeat less committed souls.

In her two year's with the council, she helped set up the Cinema Evaluation Board, initiated the campaign for a National Film Archive, and pushed for Philippine participation in the film market at the Cannes International Film Festival.

The FDCP has "endorsed and supported" the establishment of two film schools—Marilou Diaz-Abaya's Asia Pacific Institute in Manila and the International Academy of Film and Television in Cebu.

Through the International Film Festival Committee (IFFCOM), the council granted a P1.6-million subsidy to five Filipino films invited to festivals abroad—"Huling Birhen sa Lupa," "Babae sa Breakwater," "Bridal Shower," "Keka" and "Magnifico."

Informational assistance

The council continues "to provide informational assistance" to foreign filmmakers who wish to shoot in the country, as well as to foreign film students who want to learn more about Philippine cinema.

Is this pulling Guillen away from the camera?

After last year's "Santa Santita," she is developing two separate projects with Unitel and Star Cinema.

Unitel's "Santa Santita" will premiere in various key cities in North America—San Diego, Honolulu, Toronto—this month. (It will be reshown at SM Cinemas on March 16.)

From March 11 to 17, the movie will be screened in New York, at ImaginAsian—a commercial moviehouse that specializes in Asian films.

Largely because of the bustling activity in the independent film movement, Guillen remains undaunted by the much-hyped problems, both perceived and palpable, major and minor, confronting the industry.

It's because pure, unequivocal passion just might save Filipino movies.

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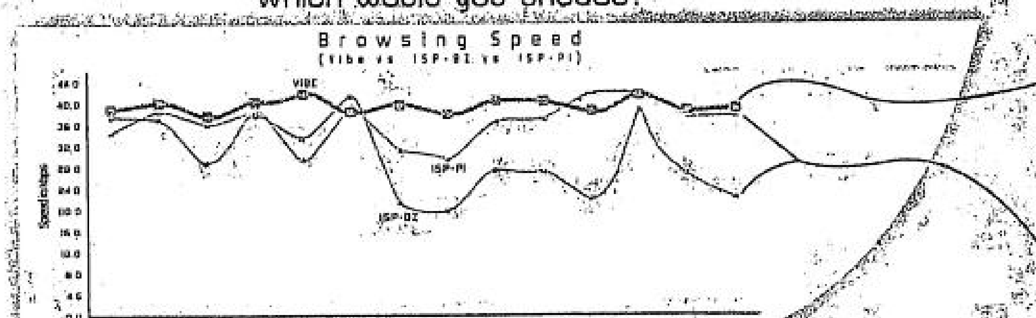

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

AMANDO TETANGCO JR.

BSP welcomes straight, sharp shooter

TETANGCO is one of the best in the shooting world.

By Clarissa S. Batino

A LOT of what Amando "Say" M. Tetangco Jr. says during his interviews tells very little about what he is during those days when the peso is not swinging like Tarzan and banks are at their best behavior.

Tetangco, who will replace Rafael Buenaventura as BSP Governor, is the perfect go-to guy at the BSP, especially when the currency is acting up.

Few question his skills and experience to handle the difficult job that he will formally assume in July.

Despite this, however, reporters avoid quoting this official, as he rates poorly in the exciting quotes department.

Say (sounds like sigh) simply refuses to dish out sexy lines that could land him in tomorrow's banner stories.

When you ask him why the peso level dropped, for instance, he would often say: "The local currency is volatile because of month-end corporate demand aggravated by regional weakness."

But outside the BSP, the incoming central bank chief, who rose from the ranks and hails from this administration's favorite province of Pampanga, is your average cool dude who enjoys a night of wine, good food and casual banter.

The conversations need not always be of the intellectual variety.

Say has a deadpan humor, yet laughs heartily at ridiculous jokes.

He calls his closest friends "*pards*," as if this were still the late '70s, and relaxes after his first glass of Shiraz or Merlot.

It was during one of those unguarded moments that he talked about being a member of the BSP Gun Club.

Say, the deputy governor who can't seem to take risks with his press statements, actually enjoys—no, seeks—the adrenaline of going for the kill. No kidding. He is actually dead serious about it.

Omar Cruz, one of his "*pards*" who now sits as the country's national treasurer, guarantees that Say is a sharpshooter.

"I've seen him in action. He is really good," says Omar.

Suffice it to say that currency speculators should consider themselves warned, even if Say claims he is not as fit as before, when he brings home trophies from competitions.

Say says he now rarely has the time to bring his Colt .45 to the range. But during the early '90s, he went shooting once a week, sometimes twice.

Now, he is just an adviser to the gun club. But he still manages to troop to the gun range once in a while.

His last game was in November.

From the shooting range, it is now the fairways that the governor-designate frequents.

He is there not merely out of need to see and hobnob with other golfers, but also because he enjoys golf, as much as he does shooting.

"The satisfaction I get from shooting is different from golf. In shooting, there is no room for error. It requires speed, accuracy and precision," he notes, as if he is still talking about addressing currency volatility.

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THE NEW Governor of BSP says shooting gives him a chance to bond with colleagues

But he doesn't want to compare his hobby and his job, although he says that shooting gives him a chance to bond with colleagues in the BSP.

The club, after all, has more than 100 members, mostly guards of the BSP.

"Every shooting game is an occasion for fellowship," he notes.

Like golf, shooting has different courses, according to Say.

There is the CQB, or close quarter battle, and open field courses ranging from 10 yards to 40 yards.

There are also courses with "poppers," referring to the menacing posters made of steel.

Say says his firearm is modified to allow him to shoot using either hand, although the right is his stronger arm.

Shooting, like golf, is not a cheap hobby.

The firearm itself is expensive, ranging anywhere from P50,000 to P100,000. Sometimes even more. The gears and accessories are just as pricey.

Does he bring a gun in the car since he has no bodyguard? Has he ever fired a gun outside the range?

These are questions, according to Say, that should not even be asked.

Can he stand having several men guard him starting July?

Right now he just his driver, Leo, who is also known to be a fast gun.

Again, he just smiled in reply.

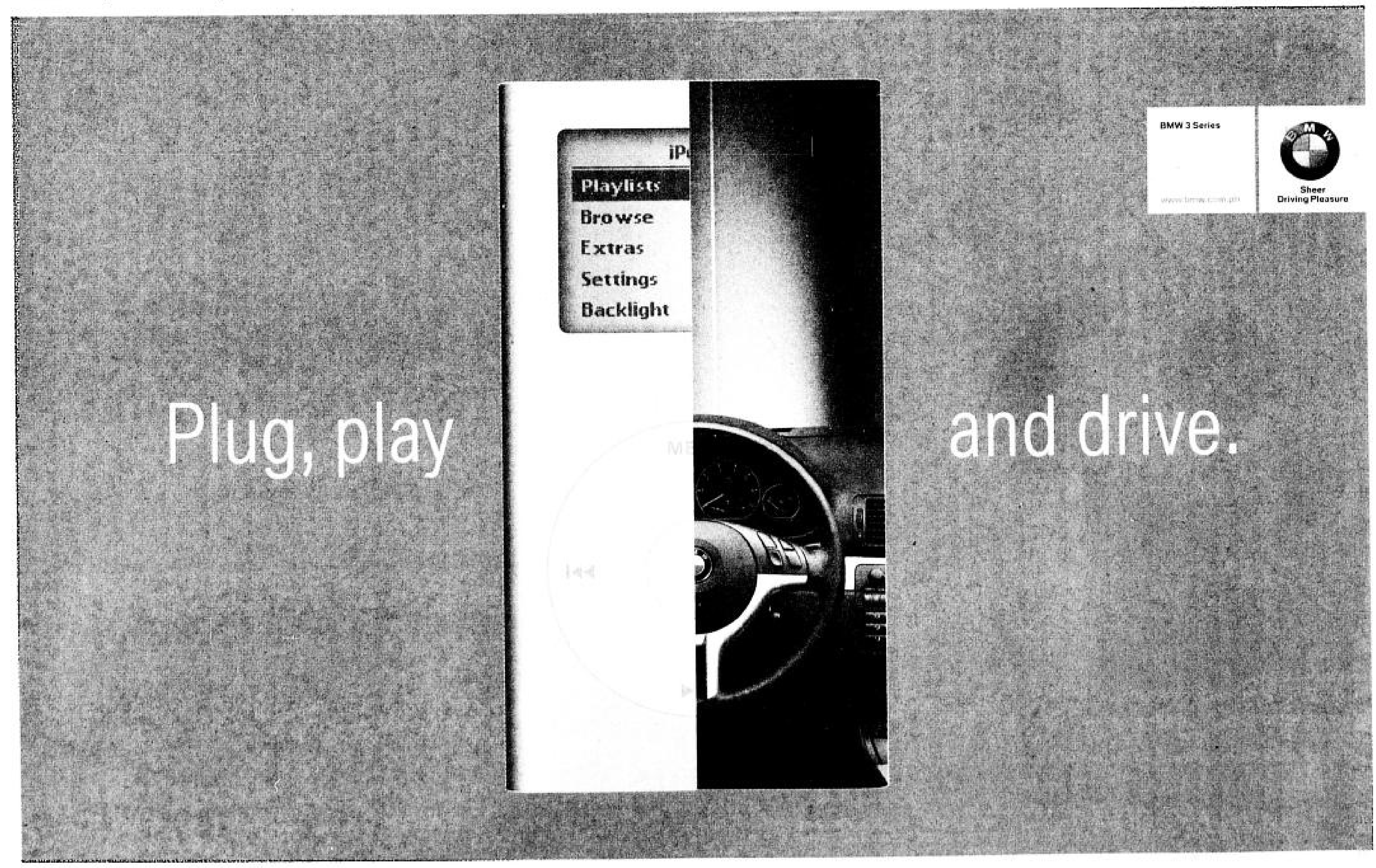
But he will still have to answer it one way or another as starting July, Say will not just be the deputy governor in charge of the BSP economic research.

He will not just be making those "moral suasion" calls to banks found with hands in the cookie jar.

By July, he will be the guy who signs every peso bill and will be responsible for everything that happens in the banking sector, even the collapse of the smallest rural bank in the country.

It is a tough job, to say the least, but in considering what he has to do, Tetangco just asked for one favor from the reporters: Make sure that every time he is quoted, his name ends with a Jr.

If not, his namesake, a notary public in Quezon City, will be one lucky—or unlucky—guy.



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Take just half the clothes, twice the needed money

By Sandra Garcia
Contributor

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL

I JUST got back from a business trip with two colleagues. Since we were going to be away for just a few days, we all traveled "light" to our destination.

While there, we, unfortunately, got carried away at our numerous business meetings and collected literature and other reference materials at each and every stop (which we eventually regretted when we started packing for our trip home).

Our host made sure we had full days (for good reasons). Thus, we didn't have a chance to sneak out to do some shopping. Finally, it was our last day (er, afternoon)—our one free day.

We made a mad dash for every shopping mall on sight and yes, shopped till we dropped. Then it was time to pack.

We left the hotel with overstuffed luggage and a couple of very heavy carry-ons each.

An hour before departure, we were jumping from one travelator to another to get to our departure gate, Gate 32.

It took us almost 20 minutes to negotiate the long distance from immigration to Gate 30, where we made a pit stop.

After relieving ourselves and on our way to our last travelator ride to our departure gate, we witnessed a Pinoy freak out when an airline staff informed him about the departure gate change from Gate 32 to Gate 13.

Susan, my colleague, and I looked at each other and freaked as it was 15 minutes to departure time.

We were like triathlon wannabes leaping from one travelator to another to make it to our new departure gate.

With a plastic bag carrying 12 bags of walnut and date drops that weighed 600 grams each in one hand, and a laptop computer on the other, I was short of breath as we raced through two flights of escalators to get to Gate 13.

It gets worse. We were met by a long queue that led us to a bus to take us to our plane! I was near collapse (with my heavy carry-ons) as I boarded the crowded bus.

I was becoming despondent as I climbed the steep ramp to the plane and swore to myself, as the bulging backpack of the Pinoy in front of me hit my face every step of the way, to give the cabin crew hell if they gave me a hard time (the efficiency and friendliness of Mariko, one of the attendants assigned to our section saved them from my wrath).

I should have known better and traveled light.

When traveling, you may want to consider the following:

- Follow the Golden Rule of traveling: Pack lightly
- Check out the weather at destination on CNN the night before you travel. I did and found out that the temperature at our destination was 10 degrees Celsius (this gave me a chance to pack light, warm clothing).
- Lay your clothes and other items on your bed before you pack so you can choose only the ones (and not your entire closet) you should bring along.
- Pack a classy, neutral colored blazer just in case you need to go to an unexpected formal occasion
- Shoes, belts and bags should be neutral enough to go day to night, and match easily with various pants, skirts, business or leisure.
- Pack toiletries in small or trial sizes.
- Pack pairs of socks made of synthetic yarns like acrylic as they keep your feet dry and comfortable.
- Consider bringing along a light, strong nylon bag for your dirty laundry.
- Use combination locks, rather than the keyed variety for your luggage.
- Learn from my recent experience, make sure your carry-ons are light (just in case you need to go through tight departure gate changes in a gigantic airport).
- Bring a bottle of water with you.
- When you make your hotel reservations make sure you specify non-smoking floor if you're a non-smoker.

Lastly, follow the travelers' motto: "Take half as many clothes and twice as much money." *For your own travel (light) tips or feedback, please email sdg1402@yahoo.com*

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VS&F is famous for its food and table settings

Connubial blitz

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

COUPLES' chances of turning their marriage into a success may have become increasingly slim. But this has not prevented Filipinos from splurging on lavish weddings.

Indeed, putting up a good wedding show involves so many players, and thousands of pesos in expenses, that it has emerged as an industry worth reckoning.

Sharon Fabian of Themes and Motifs, organizer of the Wedding Expo Philippines, tells SundayBiz that the wedding industry came into being about 10 years ago, due partly to exposure to trends abroad that tended to emphasize the trimmings, rather than the ceremony.

Combine this with the Filipinos' flair for romance and an industry is born, with couples trying to put on a better event than the previous wedding they attended—at least as much as their budgets and creativity will allow.

"This is a kind of industry that continues to grow even with a negative economy, because people will spend their savings on a nice and memorable wedding," Fabian says.

The bulk of the wedding expense typically goes to the food, and this augurs well for veteran caterer VS&F.

VS&F head Buddy Abesamis says the company used to concentrate in office canteens and small catering services. But when many offices cut down on their budget for food, they were left with no option but to look for other markets. Catering for weddings became the company's bread-and-butter.

"When we started a few years ago, we said we would be happy if we did just two weddings in a month," Abesamis says. "Now we are doing as many as 40. The industry has really gotten bigger."

Robert Blancaflor, the creative force behind 1816 Flowers and Event Styling, adds that couples are now more sophisticated in their taste that they are no longer content with the flower arrangements of old.

"That is why we call it event styling," Blancaflor says.

Hotel ballrooms, for instance, are transformed into indoor gardens with the right mix and design of flowers and greenery. Garden scenes are made even more magical and churches turn into scenes straight out of a bridal magazine.

Blancaflor adds that opportunities are not limited to Manila. Even the provinces are catching up on the trends as couples from the city choose to hold their wedding in places closer to nature.

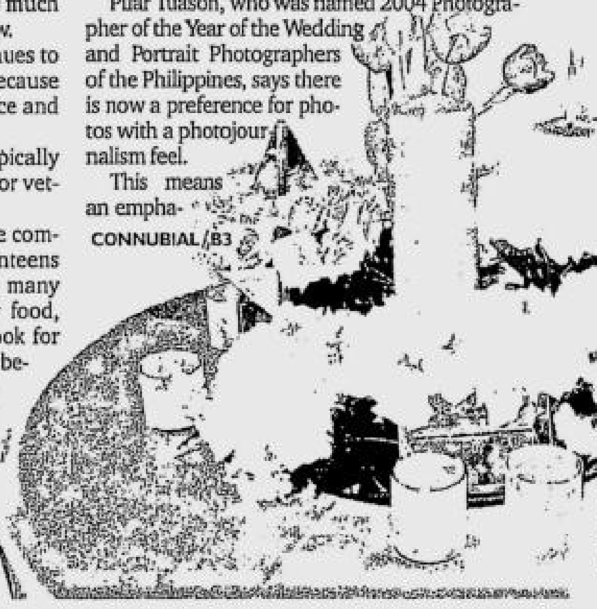
Wedding photography has likewise evolved through the years, and the price tag along with it. Packages offered by top-class wedding photographers now run to at least five figures.

Pilar Tuason, who was named 2004 Photographer of the Year of the Wedding and Portrait Photographers of the Philippines, says there is now a preference for photos with a photojournalism feel.

This means an empha-

CONNUBIAL/B3

A WINNING Tuason shot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3. Rene J. Buenaventura, CEO - Equitable PCIB
4. Ramon Isberto, Head Public Affairs - Smart
5. Juan Miguel del Rosario, VP HR - Unit. Pulp and Paper Co. Inc.
6. Franz Pumaren, Basketball Coach - DLSU
Evening Session
(Start: 5:00 pm End: 8:00 pm)
1. Dr. Carmelita I. Quebengco, EVP - DLSU
2. Franco del Rosario, CEO - 6Sigma Consulting
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RP launches own spa brand

By Corrie Salientes-Narisma

AN INFINITY pool makes the spa experience at the Bellevue Spa Club in Alabang, owned by Marjorie Lopingco, relaxing and rejuvenating.

A FULLY-EQUIPPED gym, with the latest exercise equipment, is among the facilities usually made available by spa operators to their clients.

THE THAIS have the Thai massage; the Indonesians, their Balinese spa.

Filipinos, however, have been merely borrowing these trademark massages since spas started gaining popularity in Asia.

In many cases, these borrowed foreign brands were even made the selling points of our very own spa establishments.

While there was nothing wrong with Filipinos doing Thai or Swedish massage on spa-goers, or in offering the Balinese brand to locals and foreign tourists in our own country, people in this budding industry still sensed that something was simply not right.

Marjorie Lopingco, a pioneer in the spa trade in the country and president of BHY Corp. (operator of several spas in Manila), was among the first to make this realization.

"We have been doing it so well, we have our own traditional massage to boot, the warmth of our people, and all the resources other countries do not even have, so why not offer our own?" says Marjorie.

This realization prompted major industry players and the Department of Tourism to come up with the country's own brand of spa that showcases the best in Filipinos—the character, warmth and skill—and the Philippines' indigenous resources.

Thus, the "Filipino Brand of Spa," which prominently features "Hilot" (the traditional Filipino 'healing' massage or touch therapy), came to being.

"There is no more powerful, more satisfying than having our own brand that has emotional value and that appeals to all senses," says Marjorie.

"There is even no need to take an extra mile or invent a technology to make this possible," says Marjorie, "all we need to do is to simply be ourselves, to make full use of our vast resources, have the right packaging and the resolve to do it."

These, exactly, are what the world will see when the "Filipino Brand of Spa" is finally launched internationally by the DOT and the one-year-old Philippine Association of Spas Inc.

The Philippines' own spa brand and its centerpiece, the "Hilot," will be introduced in Singapore during the International Spa Association (Ispa) Asia Pacific Conference and Exhibition 2005 on May 5 to 7, which adopts the theme, "Uniquely Asia."

Catching up

"Before, a massage clinic is nothing but a massage clinic. Today, spas offer a total experience and the services that only warm, caring and happy people like the Filipinos can provide," Marjorie says.

The word spa may have come from Spau, a small town in Belgium known for its abundance of mineral springs that attracted people to flock and bathe in the healing waters, or from the Latin phrase *salus per aquam*, which literally means health from water. But, she says, it can also very well mean 'special personalized approach' to meet the individual spa goer's needs and to make him feel better.

The "Filipino Brand of Spa" was conceived as part of the DOT's program to develop and promote health tourism in the country. The department and the spa industry agreed that the way to pursue this objective was through the traditional massage, the *hilot*.

"I believe we can really catch up in this trade with our neighbors and the rest of the world by highlighting the therapeutic benefits of our brand, with beauty, relaxation and pampering as bonus," Marjorie explains. "After all, one's health is non-negotiable, the other concerns can wait."

The "*Hilot*" is expected to give character to the country's health tourism program and distinguish the Philippine spa industry from the others offering the same services.

We have it all

Apart from human resources, the country is blessed with the natural resources that can make all these happen and make the country a major spa destination in Asia.

"European countries built their respective spa industry out of just one resource. Germany, the Czech Republic and Hungary capitalized on their mineral springs; Austria, its moor mud; Italy, its volcanic mud, and France, its seaweeds. Our neighbors Thailand and Indonesia made use of their culture, plants and herbs. Can you think of a country that has it all? Only the Philippines," she says.

The country has all forms of plants and herbs that can be made into essential oils, including *ylang-ylang*, the *tanglad* or lemon grass, citronella and virgin coconut oil.

"We also have the seaweeds that bring out the natural minerals of the water, the springs and the volcanoes—the sources of all the materials needed for various spa treatments," she says.

Spa establishments of today—day spa, resort spa, cruise spa, club spa and medical spa—offer different kinds of treatments such as massage, scrubs, body wraps, thalassotheraphy or therapy that involves bathing in heated fresh seawater.

Although the "Filipino Brand of Spa" will be focusing on the "Hilot" or therapeutic massage, the raw materials that the country has in abundance can support other types of services spa operators may opt to offer.

In line with the objective of giving the "Filipino Brand of Spa" the necessary push, the DOT is holding training programs on traditional massage for spa personnel, now called spa therapists, who will be specializing in the "*Hilot*." The training will be undertaken by Bibiano 'Boy' Fajardo, head of the Philippine Healers' Association. Fajardo is a chemical engineer, *hilot*, healer and herbalist rolled into one. Marjorie, who chairs the PSAI education committee and the May launch of the "Filipino Brand of Spa" in Singapore, says training and educating spa therapists are a priority of the spa industry and the DOT.

Filipino culture

MASSAGE is, and will always be, the highlight of a spa treat.

The Philippine spa industry wants to create an edge over the others in the area of human resource since globally, there has been a shortage of qualified spa personnel.

"Similar to our traditional *manghihilot* [healers], our spa therapists doing the "Hilot" massage will be able to determine, by just pressing a finger or toe of a client, which parts of the spa-goer's body need more massage and attention," she said.

To add a Filipino touch to the experience, the local spa association is researching and identifying soothing Filipino music that will be played during the sessions.

"We are going to that. We are seeking the help of the CCP [Cultural Center of the Philippines] in finding suitable truly Filipino music for this purpose," Marjorie says.

With the resolve to fully develop and promote the the country's own brand, the "Filipino Brand of Spa" and the "Hilot" will be made the major offering in all DOT-accredited spas and member-firms of Pasi.

Although the spa culture has been in existence for thousands of years now in many European countries, spa-going started becoming a phenomenon in Asia only in the 1980s, says Marjorie.

Indonesia and Thailand played a major role in this. The rich and diverse cultures, as well as the natural resources of the region, gave a uniquely exotic flavor to the eastern spa experience and helped trigger a global spa explosion.

Pioneering entrepreneurs

Some pioneering Filipino entrepreneurs, led by Marjorie, started going into the spa business in the late 1980s. However, the country was not able to catch up with neighboring Thailand and Indonesia, whose spa brands have become popular not only in the regional but also in other parts of the world, when spa became a phenomenon and the trade boomed.

While Indonesia now has 1,312 major spa establishments; Thailand, 887 and Singapore, 645, the Philippine Association of Spas counts only 63 spa operator-members.

In fact, Philippine spa operators organized themselves only a year or so ago and the DOT has just started accrediting them.

But Marjorie and her peers believe it is never too late for the country to catch up given the huge market potential and the ability of the Filipino spa operators to provide quality service that appeals to the senses of the spa-goers.

The spa trade is a sunrise industry in the country. Its growth, according to Marjorie, is driven by the modern society and the environment—the pollution, stress from work and modern-day living.

The rat race in the corporate world, the tough chore of maintaining a household and raising kids, and the traffic jams make people need relief from stress through some relaxing and revitalizing activities and treatments offered by spas.

A trip to a spa club can provide a temporary escape from the realities of modern-day living, and it also can serve as catalyst for a lifestyle change and a tool for self enhancement.

With the Filipinos resolve to make it, there seems to be no reason why the "Filipino Brand of Spa" and the "Hilot" would not succeed in making a name for the country in the international spa industry.

Connubial blitz

From page B2

sis on what is real and candid, rather than the prepared and posed.

Gone are the days when a wedding album merely contained the highlights of the ceremony. There is now such a thing as a pre-nuptial photo session, where couples are photographed in their most romantic moments just before they exchange vows.

Albums also need not be done in classic white with lace trimmings. Black is now acceptable. So are other colors to go with the wedding motif.

Fabian says one indication that the wedding industry has expanded is the increase in the number of exhibitors to The Wedding Expo.

When the first show was held in March 2002, there were only 147 exhibitors. This has increased to 189 for the March show, which will end today.

Deals closed during the first show were worth some P1.8 million. This went up to P5.8 million as of September last year.

"People really spend a lot on their weddings because they believe that it is a once in a lifetime thing," Fabian says. "So, they want the best that they can afford."

As long as Filipinos think that way, the wedding industry will surely get even bigger.

(Wedding Expo Philippines will run until today at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City. For inquiries, log on to www.themesnmotifs.com)

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12:00 noon
every Thursday

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

MEDICAL

DENTAL

TOOTH IMPLANTS 772-2014

PHYSICIAN/SURGEON

VDSTD Skin Clinic Rapid
Tx Comp Lab Tel. 8175071
Matrinco 2178 P. Tamo Makati

PERSONAL

ARCHITECTS

We DESIGN and CONSTRUCT
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Collagen 4 Beautiful Face Breast Hand Buttocks Lipodissolve Remove Eyebags Doublechin Body Fat 0921-3147611 Manila/Davao

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ADAM'S APPLE 3605724

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Alternative Therapy 8327363

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Candy 8971506;09212085309

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MLA:4587593 CEBU: (032) 2593809

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MALE MASSAGE
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MASSAGE 8547144 VICTOR

MR. UNIVERSE MASSAGE
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MY GUYZ 0927-4693728

RELAXING MASSAGE 6978214

THAI Msge Lic 0921-7569278

THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE 752-0018

Vermont Place 562-9746

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★★Feels Good 4127768★★

I-spa Ctland 9 Mkt 8160151

MILLENIUM M/F 9347633

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HOUSEHOLD JOBS

A'A MAID & YAYA 4386920

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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Best Driver Maid 4547542

BEST MAIDS 4109268

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

PASIG

Dr. Sixto Antonio Pasig
Corner Lot 415sqm Ideal 4 Med. Rise Com'l/Resdtl Devt
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SAN JUAN

5,000 m² 2KM SM Cpt 7838234

HOUSE & LOT

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P1.1M 2br 2Stry 805-4686

READY FOR OCCUPANCY
LAS PINAS or BACOOR
Only P5,000 to reserve
No loan requirement
• 874-0487 • 873-59-49 •

MAKATI

MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

SANLO 700M² 26M 8130723

MANDALUYONG

Mandaluyong House and Lot; L.A., 300 sqm; F.A. 240 sqm.; 5 bedrooms; 1 den; maid's room; 4 toilets / baths; 2-car garage. Call Cynthia, 5324895

MARIKINA

Bnew 4BR 3TB 2.8M 9487112

La Colina Subd LA400m² with old hse 1.5M 0917-8997547

PARANAQUE

8 Vatican, Merville, Pque 4BR Up&Down 31/2TB widen 3crgrge Call Darius / Jen 8247226 / 09178739397

RUSHI Fortunata Village
336sqm 4BR 4TB P4.3 Nego.
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PASIG

* LEXINGTON *
Nr C5 D Fort Makati Ortigas
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• 5320823 / 09167912686 •

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BRIXTON HILLS LA830m²
Nice Hse 25M 0917-5218855

KAMUNING Duplex Bnew
P4.6M 3BR 3TB 724-2629
412-7533 / 435-2186

Proj.7 200m² 0920-8030856

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P2.4M 0919-2123441

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Commonwealth Avenue, Q.C.

1BR, 2BR, 3BR Units: For sale, or lease, or lease-to-purchase; special discounts for cash sales.

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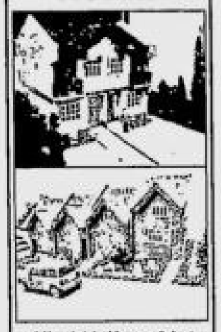
Call Ana 759-2237.

HOUSE & LOT

BAGUIO

BAGUIO VACATION HOMES



Affordable House & Lot Packages at the Pines City
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For Inquiries, Call:
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371-9702 to 04
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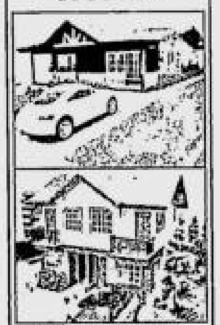
TAGAYTAY

TAGAYTAY VACATION HOMES



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Phase 1 & Phase II Fully developed with Existing Locators
Phase III - Pres-selling
Owner/Developer
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634-2956 • 636-0111 TO 14

QUEZON CITY

Quick Sale! West Triangle P8.5M neg LA507 FA240 4BR 5TB mdsrm 3CG garden DBO 4117571; 4530106

•Sikatuna Vil. #81 Mahlyain• 9210255 9219967 9209822

SKTNA 16M Capitol 4.5M Sct 1M • 0917-8251059

Very Well Maintained Hse
Filinvest 1 Batasan Hills LA300m² FA447.75m² 2sty 4br4tb 2crgrge, high-end mtls. used P9M neg. SEE TO APPRECIATE • 0917-8997547

RIZAL

ANTIPOLO P1.2M DP22% LA72m² FA65m² 2sty 3BR 1TB 644-2644/09198384254

TAYTAY Haus & Lot 30% D.P. Lipat Agad 30mins. fr. Ortigas 09176428542

BULACAN

1800/mo-20yrs (0920)7572330

LOT

OTHER AREAS

BAGUIO PRIME PROPERTY FOR SALE

- 1 Hectare Lot inside a fully developed subdivision
- With overlooking view of the Cordillera Mountains & the South China Sea
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371-9702 to 04
410-8367 to 69

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- Located along main hi-way leading to Fort Magsaysay, in an area of residential subd.
- Near Cabanatuan City proper
- 6 kms. from Fort Magsaysay

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372-3206
371-9702 to 04
410-8367 to 69

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110 KMS. FROM MANILA, 25 KMS. FROM SUBIC, 500 TO 1,000 SQ.M. LOTS WITH FRUIT BEARING TREES, 9 FEET TALL PERIMETER SECURITY FENCE, CLUBHOUSE, TENNIS/ BASKETBALL COURT, SWIMMING POOL & JACUZZI.
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410-8367 to 69

HOUSE & LOT

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For Rent w/ option To Buy within 1 year Behind Paras Beach Resort Camiguin Island T-(088)387-9159 / 387-6517

CAVITE

AYALA WESTGROOVE PH4 BRAND NEW HOUSE 313sqm lot 412sqm • fronting Kids Groove Clubhaus playgrnd & swimming pool. 5277616 • 0920-9503228 luk 4 Vioiy

CAMELLA HOMES BACOOR LA137m² FA198.90m² 5BR P1.7M Vic 8903481 , loc 27

LAGUNA

3400/mo 25yrs (0910)8363679

METROVILLE SUBD LA 122m² 2bdrms 1T&B FA61.28m² P1.2M Vic 8903461 loc 27

MILAN CAMELLA HOMES 3Stry FA210m² LA78m² P1.7M VIC 8903461 LOC 27/25

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

OTHER AREAS

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7246020; 7426079

CONDO/TWNHSE

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1.1M C5 Nr The Fort
10T/mo. or 4Yrs. No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD 2-4BR 15min Fr Mktl 0917-8169849

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3 Bedrooms Condo w/ Parking
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Price: P 3.5m (negotiable)
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MKT NR AYALA
BnewTwnhse/3stry/3br/2 1/2tb/grge P3.720M up 8903461 loc 34

PRINCE PLAZA II Corner P2.3M • 0917-5274885 Rush

RENT 2 OWN Condo Resort! 2BR P12T RFO 0922-8086855

RES. CONDO, 3M to 7M up cash/ terms, 1BR, 2BR, 3BR, W/PKG. LOC. MKT, QC, & ROXAS BLVD. T-750-8291/0927-7996662

RESD'L RESORT CONDO 2-4BR
GlobalCT, NrDFORT-1.0M-Up,RFO
Comp'l Ament's RENT2OWN & PG-IBG FIN. 09206348545

ROCKWELL RIZAL TOWER 283 SQM. 3 BEDROOMS (all ensuite). DESIGNER CONDO. 3 PARKING. MAID'S. FURNISHED OR UNFURNISHED CONTACT OWNER AT 0917-5303865

RUSH SALE
CONDO UNITS OFFICE 28M
226.38 sqm with three (3) parking lot
Ready for occupancy
5% percent directly
To Real Estate Agency
50% cash & 50% 12 months to pay
See for appointment
Makati Salcedo Village
Telephone no 751-93-00

MANILA

Somerset Condo In Ayala Fully Furn w/1Parking CBD Area P4.5M 0927-9162585

PASIG

GALERIA CORP. CTR 107m² FF 4.8M 6873372; 09178102903

MGA Plaza 1.8M 30m² Studio 419-6573 • 0917-8251059

QUEZON CITY

2sty B/nw 7units 3BR3TB 2CG 4.9-5.3M 159 Sct. Limbaga Ext. 4388754 09228530530

EASTWOOD 3BR3TB 4.2M
Panoramic View Pool RFO 09184845443

HIGHEST CONDO In QC 1&2br Penthse2.5-7M 09189235216

KAMUNING 3sty t'hse
4.6m Bnew 7242629/4127311

PROJ.2 Marang St. P3.3M
3sty t'hse 7242628/4352186

RUSH SALE owner leaving 1 Condo Unit 2BR fully furnished w/parking Panay Ave. QC 2.6M (neg) 0920-9088059

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE

RIZAL

3Sty Cainta P2.5M 6416308

SAN JUAN

Beautiful Penthse 255m² + Park + R'deck 3BR 4TB Exclnt loc. GHills Avail. for Urgent Sale P13M Call 2977534

RUSH SALE CONDO UNIT P2.4M w/ 2 Bedrooms Toilet & Bath at QUADRILLON MANSION M. Patero St. & N. Domingo, San Juan. Call Reynold CP# 09174327579

OTHER AREAS

CANYON WOODS
Ridge Condo Ground Breaking Sunday 1br-3br @P3M & Up Lots 5Yrs 0%Int. Divine 0918-9377715 or (02) 531-2805 Avail of Big Disc.

PROVINCIAL

Tagaytay P3.8M 09275222683

APARTMENT

MAKATI

2 sty Apt. 356 sqm
3333 Zapote cor Mancha
P10M 6316936 / 6378080

MANDALUYONG

2Dr 87m² 2.8Mneg 0927-4197875

LOT

ALABANG

AYALA SOUTHVALE 499sqm 5.5M 0917-5274885 758-1193 Mayet RUSH SALE!

KALOOCAN

Rainbow Village 5 LA 216m² P3,473/m² Vic 8903461 loc 25

VILLA ANGELICA LA279m² FA157m² 4br 3tb P1.7M Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAS PINAS

PILAR VILL. 280m²@5.5K/m² neg. Call/Txt 0917-8997547

MAKATI

Attn: INVESTORS
OWN AN AYALA LAND
LOT FOR ONLY P3.1M
Brand New LOT @ Ayala Westgrove Hgts, Ph-6 331m², Silang, Cavite New Access Road Only 1.1M dp, 28T/mo. Call Raymund 0917-7417637

PASIG

METROVILLE SUBD LA 333m² P4,054/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

QUEZON CITY

807 square meter Don Antonio Subdivision Quezon City Mr. Luna 3744358

Congressional Ave 9314946

KATIPUNAN Ext Coml 1200m² P9,500/m² 09189235216

Katipunan Ext nr UP Ateneo 204m² to 816m² P8,500/m² 09189235216

LIBIS QC 204m² 6400544

MURPHY 14TH AVE near Liberty 474m² 0919-2123441

RIZAL

540m² along Felix Ave Cainta
Direct Buyer Only
Call Tess Parayno 780-1594

OTHER AREAS

300m² 5Yrs 0% Int 6286238

TAGAYTAY Ovrlookng Taal 10% DP 6yrs 0% Int. w/ Free Membrshp Worth 425T 09176428542

TOWN & COUNTRY HILLS LA240m² P3,125/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

LOT

OTHER PROVINCIAL

320SQM RES'L LOT P1.1M Davao City nr Mall 09173318471

CANYONWOODS 352SQM W/VIEW TEL. 8509644 AFTER OFF. HRS

BATANGAS

Nr Univ of Batangas
400m² 0919-8932975

RANCHO VISTA SUBD LA613m2 P2,284/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

BULACAN

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

CAVITE

DON BOSCO EXEC HTS LA128m2 P2,900/m2 Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA149.30m² P6,028/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARKPLACE SUBD LA120m² P5,750/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

ST. CHARBEL DASMA nr SM 371m² P2,650/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

LAGUNA

Metro Gate Subd. Sta. Rosa 120sqm Carmen Edc 642-1237

SOUTH PEAK P5,000/m2 LA240m2 Vic 8903461 loc 25/27

OFFICE SPACE

Herrera Cypress Garden U-4C 60 Sqm w/ parking P2.1M Miramar 8171589/94

OFFICE SPACE FOR SALE
• 480m² / 6 Parking Lot
• Space 1 G/F, 3B1, 2B2 P40,000
• Per Sqm. 4th Floor Cacho
•Gonzales Bldg 101 Aguirre
• Cor Trasierra St., Legaspi Vill. Makati City Nora 0916-4342270

RAFFLES EMERALD AVE
Whole Flr 40M 0917-5216855

MEMORIAL LOT

MLA MMRL P'QUE 4 LOTS
P165,000 T-5323936

FARM/FISHPEN/ RAWLANDS

SAN MIGUEL BUL 4000m² P165/m² Vic 8903461 loc 27

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

COMMERCIAL

QUEZON CITY

903 Edsa 797 Sqm P70T Miramar 8171589/91/94

COMMERCIAL/ RESIDENTIAL

MAKATI

1224 CARDONA MKT CITY TEL 8961130 8997042 3BD 2TB 1MDS RM W/GRGE. A-173SQM FA-125.12SQM

HOUSE

ALABANG

4BR w/ Pool T-5322445

ALABANG 4BR DEN W/ SP FF NICE 807-3425 818-5442

MAKATI

1128 ANTIPOLO ST.
8902694 • 8902561

RIZAL

3BR Maids Rm Nawasa H2O 1car grge 10T/mo Vermont Park Antipolo Tel 645-8756

CAVITE

GRAND PARK PLACE 09194853180 0468751581 NEG

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

Mkt. Studio 45m²/2Br1Tb 65m² FreePrkg NoDue 8979417

NEW STUDIO/Com 2BR 6.5Tup 1672 Dian St. Mktl 843-9418/09189390355 Rose

NEW TWNHSE/2 UNITS/3FLRS /4BRS W/GRGE 19K/MNTH RSDNTL/BUSNES USE 1103 DEL PAN ST. MKTI Call ED: 872-3425 0927-2434412

STUDIO UNITS-19J,15J,15E, FULLY FUNISHED-ORIENTAL GARDEN SEE TO APPRECIATE CALL TESS CEL 919 243 4392 OR 522 6429

Two Lafayet 2BR ffurnish Jacuzzi 7246139 / 5549 00185340976 / 09177307558

MARIKINA

BNew 2-sty 2 Big BR w/ Grge Tierra Vista Subd. 9480309

PARANAQUE

Bnew Townhse parking 2 cars, maids rm, 18T/mo. nr FTI Tel#823-3213

CHATEAU ELYSEE-PQUE 2BR 2CR S.FURN 12K/MO 09178987644

PASIG

Ortigas Renaissance 3000 3br for Rent. Faces Antipolo 0928-2145239

QUEZON CITY

4rent 4BR 4TB w/Attic 2CGrg Bellevue Subd. nr. Grace H.S. 374-8832

BRAND NEW 3BR maids rm 3TB 116sqm 1st St. cor. #8 Gilmore Ave. New Mla. QC 28K Violy/Tintin 5277616

MANILA

1BR ROBINSON FAURA 5642622

APARTMENT

KALOOCAN

UD 2BR NRLRT P9.5 3610228

MAKATI

2BR 8905921 / 092743011

3BR 1TB-Gar-09189363199

STUDIO Size 5T T870-85-41

MANILA

2BR TONDO Baby 726-8663

3br 2tb Grge 15T Zobel Roxas Cor Conchu Tel. 6310704

For 3Pax near ESPANA 7812857 / 0916-8433396 Dex

PARANAQUE

PROJ 8 2/4BR 2TB 09179688923

QUEZON CITY

2BR QC 725-9419

34 YALE CUBAO 9310449

7T scrnd Fema Rd Proj8- 9262180

Bgobantay 7233179/7120441

DUPLEX 3BR 2TB GRGE Horeshoe Vill 726-8663

WAREHOUSE/ FACTORY

BODEGA nr. Boni 531-9607

Cubao labshp 500m² 8974697

QC Whse 350/600/420m²
24hr sec high wall 4563243

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Pasig City 6378080 / 6316936

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P2001 Sucat Pque 8275345

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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COMMERCIAL

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FORD CLUB WAGON '95
AUTOMATIC TURBO DIESEL
CALL ROMMEL 09178476253

FORD CLUBWAGON E-350DSL 650K 0917-4259753 758-1193

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02Cvic VTI m/t 09185543840

02Cvic VTIS a/t 09209241801

HONDA CRV 2000 Model 4x4 loaded 8061860

HYUNDAI

•99Starex A/T TDIC 6450515

KIA

98 Besta Skul Bus 9418786

MITSUBISHI

03'S L'cer GLS A/T 458 T-7211877

'04 ADVENTURE GLS Sport P540T Diesel 6711477/09228063655 6711477

GLXI 95* WELL MAINTAINED 2727813 Fairview QC

PAJERO 2001 FIELDMASTER P1.1M automatic white first owned comprehensive insurance local (0917)518-0947 DJ

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CARS

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2001 Nissan Frontier
09198707359 • 09193552515

'90 Patrol Turbo Dsl 300T
Neg 0917-3760305 Rush

TOYOTA

'95 CORONA EX SALOON
silvrgray 250k 0918-9250873

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95VOLVO 850 GLT
AND 97 H. Accord SDN
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1.5% CARLOAN 373-0519

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1.5% Easy Car Loan 4112547/48

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1.5% Easy Carloan 7815352/55

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1.5% w/oTaking Car 3650974/75

1.5% w/oTaking Car 7228942-43

•1HR Fast Car Loan 7125202•

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CAR LOAN

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2% w/o Taking Car 7262780

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081/82

2% w/oTaking Car 8870480/95

2% w/oTaking Car 8966630/33

2% w/oTaking Car 8959454

2% w/out taking car 5315577

2% w/out taking car 6567685

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APPLIANCES

For Sale BEV. COOLER / AIRCON / FREEZER / COUNTER TABLE / TABLES & CHAIRS / PLATES / POTS & PANS. CALL 09179619083 / 7262543

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PCCI
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DOGSHOWS
MARIKINA
RIVERBANKS
MARIKINA CITY
March 12 & 13, 2005
UNDER INT'L JUDGES
Mr. William Ranie
(Aust)
Dr. Glad Cowie
(Aust)
(1st TIMERS IN D PHILS.)
STRICTLY NO ADDENDUM
THE SHOW WILL START AT EXACTLY 9:00 AM
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PCCI
RING STEWARDING SEMINAR
Friday, March 11, 2005
1:00 PM PCCI Office
Quezon City

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A prestigious casino/hotel located at Subic Bay Freeport Zone is currently in need of:

CASINO ADMINISTRATIVE EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Handles administrative requirements for the Casino Operations. In charge of administrative supervision of staff, checks on attendance, coordinates on schedule rosters, handles all stages and types of disciplinary action cases, coordinates and take charge of staff movements ensures accuracy of staff development cards, information dissemination handling of lavel arrangements for expatriates, etc.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least two (2) years in an administrative or HR supervisory position;
- Proficient in handling disciplinary action cases;
- Computer literate;
- Analytical;
- Above average communication skills (oral and written);
- Above average interpersonal skills (patient and mature in dealing with staff);
- College graduate (any four-year course).

SURVEILLANCE EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Directs, coordinates and oversees the activities of the Surveillance personnel in monitoring gaming tables, slot operations, count rooms, cashier cages and downtime activity in the Casino and support areas.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Minimum of three (3) years in Surveillance Operations Department, with at least one (1) year experience as Surveillance Supervisor (Executive);
- College graduate (any four-year course);
- Strong interpersonal skills and analytical ability;
- Excellent oral and written communication skills, especially in English;
- Fair and objective;
- Must have flexible working habit.

VIP SERVICES EXECUTIVE

JOB SUMMARY:
Assists the VIP Services Manager and Asst. VIP Services Manager in the operational and administrative requirements of the VIP Services Department.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate of any course;
- Minimum of three (3) years experience in Casino industry;
- Minimum of two (2) years exposure in junket operations and negotiations;
- Above average written and oral communication skills;
- Knowledge of any Asian language is an advantage;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Possesses leadership qualities;
- Excellent public relations skills.

VIP SERVICES COORDINATOR

JOB SUMMARY:
Qualified applicants will be tasked to liaise with various hotel department and to provide service that is uniquely LIRL.

QUALIFICATIONS:
- College graduate of any course;
- Fluent in Mandarin, Hokkien and/or Korean languages;
- At least one (1) year experience in customer service;
- With excellent written and oral communication skills;
- Strong interpersonal skills;
- Patient and flexible;
- Prepared to work overtime when required.

Residents of Olongapo, Zambales, Bataan, Pampanga and/or other areas in Central Luzon are preferred. Interested applicants may send/submit their resumés/bio-data with supporting document and recent 2x2 photo to:

LEGEND INTERNATIONAL RESORTS LIMITED
Recruitment & Training Office
2F Oak Bldg., Legenda Suites, Cubi Point,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Olongapo City 2200
Fax No. (02) 813-5670

EMAIL Address: **hrd@legendanet.com**

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late AVELINA VDA. DE ESPEJO of Muntinlupa City, who died on Feb. 2, 1997 has been the subject of an extrajudicial settlement on Jan. 31, 2005, as evidenced in the document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public Modesto M. Alejandro Jr., Mandaluyong City, Doc. No. 131, Page No. 28, Book No. VIII, Series of 2005.
(PDI-Feb. 20, 27 & March 6, 2005)

PUBLIC NOTICES

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QUALIFICATIONS:
- Computer Science graduate or graduate of equivalent courses
- Have sound programming knowledge using Java
- Knowledge in Japanese is an advantage
- Resourceful and self-learner
- Willing to work as a team
- Male or Female, not more than 24 years old
- With good moral character

Qualified applicants must bring the following requirements:
- Comprehensive resumé
- Transcript of Records
- Diploma / Certificate of Graduation
- 1 pc. 2 x 2 latest ID picture

Apply personally from Monday to Friday
Previous applicants need not apply.

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11th Floor, Asiatrust Bank Bldg.,
1424 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City

CALOOCAN

ATB01 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 192 sqm.
Vista Verde Exec. Vill.
Min. Bid Price P 1,400,000

MAKATI

ATB03 - COMM'L CONDO.
F.A. 34.79 sqm.
Citiland, De la Rosa
Min. Bid Price P 900,000

ATB04 - COMM'L CONDO.
F.A. 27.29 sqm.
Citiland, De la Rosa
Min. Bid Price P 900,000

ATB106 - TWNHOUSE UNIT
L.A. 210.79 sqm
Makati Peace City
Min. Bid Price P 2,500,000

MANILA

ATB06 - RSDL. CONDO.
F.A. 44.61 sqm
Burgundy Westbay Tower, Malate
Min. Bid Price P 2,500,000

MUNTINLUPA

ATB08 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 405 sqm. F.A. 476 sqm.
Pleasant Village, Putatan
Min. Bid Price P 3,000,000

ORTIGAS AVENUE

ATB02 - RSDL. CONDO
F.A. 67.69 sqm.
Unit 609-Parc Royale Condo
Min. Bid Price P 2,000,000

PARANAQUE

ATB105 - TWNHOUSE UNIT
L.A. 88.30 sqm. F.A. 76.50 sqm.
Sun Valley, Paranaque City
Min. Bid Price P 2,000,000

PASAY

ATB09 - RSDL. CONDO.
F.A. 26.19 sqm.
Park Avenue Mansion, Park Ave
Min. Bid Price P 750,000

ATB10 - RSDL. CONDO.
F.A. 129.95
Sunset View Condo., Roxas Blvd.
Min. Bid Price P 1,500,000

QUEZON CITY

ATB11 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 4,341 sqm
In front of Residenza Subd., Camarin
Min Bid Price P 30,387,000

ATB12 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 3,434 sqm
In front of Residenza Subd., Camarin
Min. Bid Price P 24,038,000

ATB13 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 191 sqm.
Villa Chico Subd., Fairview
Min Bid Price P 4,200,000

ATB14 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 270 sqm.
C. Francisco St., North Susana Village
Min Bid Price P 4,000,000

ATB15 - 2-STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 90 sqm.
Villa Verde Subd., Novaliches
Min. Bid Price P 950,000

ATB16 - 2-STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 90 sqm.
Villa Verde Subd., Novaliches
Min. Bid Price P 850,000

ATB17 - 2-STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 58.8 per unit
West Classic Garden, Fairview
Min. Bid Price P 1,100,000

ATB95 - COMM'L CONDO
F.A. 90.52 sqm.
Unit 12F-Alberton Bldg.
Min. Bid Price P CALL US

ATB96 - RSDL. CONDO
F.A. 97.31 sqm.
Unit 8D-Alberton Bldg.
Min. Bid Price P CALL US

ATB97 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 37 sqm. F.A. 51.48 sqm.
Roque Comp. Verdant Hills
Tandang Sora, Quezon City
Min. Bid Price P 350,000

LITTLE BAGUIO, SAN JUAN

ATB18 - 4 STRY TWNHOUSE
L.A. 62 sqm. L.A. 107.5
#74 Jose Abad Santos, Little Baguio
Min. Bid Price P 5,600,000

MANDALUYONG

ATB90 - TOWNHOMES
F.A. 26 sqm.
CENTENNIAL TOWNHOMES
2160 Namayan St., Villanca Comp.
Min. Bid Price P 650,000

ANTIPOLO, RIZAL

ATB19 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,000 sqm
Near Hinulugan Taktak
Min Bid Price P 980,000

ATB20 - 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 35 sqm. L.A. 24.75 sqm.
L3 B5 Louisville Subd., Brgy. Cupang
Min. Bid Price P 230,000

ATB21 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 35 sqm. L.A. 42.5 sqm.
L24 B1 Louisville Village, Brgy Cupang
Min. Bid Price P 300,000

ATB22 - 1-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 41.28 sqm. F.A. 50.75 sqm.
L7 B2 Louisville Vill.
Min. Bid Price P 300,000

ATB23 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 257 sqm
ABBA Homes Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 400,000

ATB24 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 299 sqm L.A. 111 sqm.
#2 Sto. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min Bid Price P 1,200,000

ATB25 - 9 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 1,784 sqm
Sto. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 1,560,000

ATB25A - RSDL LOT
L.A. 299 sqm
Sto. Rosario St. Milagros Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 598,000

ATB25B - RSDL LOT
L.A. 534 sqm
Sto. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min Bid Price P 1,068,000

ATB25C - RSDL LOT
L.A. 353 sqm.
Sto. Rosario St., Milagros Subd.
Min Bid Price P 706,000

ATB26A - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,500 sqm.
Golden Hills Subd.
Min Bid Price P 1,090,900

ATB26B - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,400 sqm.
Golden Hills Subd.
Min Bid Price P 1,016,200

ATB27 - BUNGALOW HOUSE
L.A. 96 sqm. F.A. 85 sqm
Brgy. Mambugan, Antipolo
Min Bid Price P 621,000

ATB29 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm F.A. 24 sqm.
L15 B1 Louisville Subd.
Min Bid Price P 211,600

ATB30 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 28 sqm.
L12 B7 Louisville Subd.
Min Bid Price P 318,000

ATB31 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 56
L6 B9 Louisville Subd.
Min Bid Price P 264,000

ATB32 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 70 sqm. F.A. 56 sqm.
L8 B9 Louisville Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 261,000

ATB95 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 92.75 sqm. F.A. 33 sqm.
Brentwood Subdivision
Min. Bid Price P 730,000

ATB100 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 35 sqm L.A. 24 sqm
L16 B7 Louisville Village,
Min Bid Price P 211,000

ATB107 - 2 STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300sqm F.A. 410 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 1 Marigold st.
Min. Bid Price P 3,319,000

CAINTA, TAYTAY, SAN MATEO, RIZAL

ATB33 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 204 sqm.
Village East Binangonan Rizal
Min. Bid Price P 510,000

ATB34 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 89.5 sqm L.A. 48 sqm.
Lamar Village, San Mateo, Rizal
Min Bid Price P 645,000

ATB35 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. L.A. 92 sqm.
Vista Verde Subd., Cainta
Min Bid Price P 1,054,000

ATB99 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 122 sqm F.A. 122 sqm.
St. Ignatius Lamar Village, Ginang Bayan
Min Bid Price P 660,000

BAGUIO

ATB37A - RSDL LOT
L.A. 666 sqm.
Monterazzas Village, Itogon
Min Bid Price P 1,120,100

ATB37B - RSDL LOT
L.A. 418 sqm
Monterazzas Village, Itogon
Min Bid Price P 708,000

BATANGAS

ATB38 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 237 sqm. F.A. 118.85 sqm.
#279 Darma Highway
Min Bid Price P 800,000

ATB39 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 280 sqm
Calumala Subdivision, Bauan
Min. Bid Price P 150,000

ATB40 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT/6 RSDL LOT
L.A. 203 sqm.
Batangas City
Min Bid Price P 8,500,000

ATB41 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 159 sqm L.A 48 sqm.
Greenvalley Subd., Poblacion San Pascual
Min. Bid Price P 398,700

ATB42 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 118 sqm
Greenvalley Subd. Poblacion; San Pascual
Min Bid Price P 179,400

ATB43 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 142 sqm.
Greenvalley Subd. Poblacion, San Pascual
Min. Bid Price P 213,000

ATB44 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 598 sqm.,
Brgy. Bulsas, Batangas City
Min Bid Price P 598,000

ATB45 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 312 sqm.,
Golden Country Homes, Alangilan
Min. Bid Price P 998,400

ATB46 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 267 sqm.
Sta. Maria St., Barrio Sambat-Balba
Min. Bid Price P 1,068,000

ATB47 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 203 sqm.
De Joya St., Barrio Cuta
Min. Bid Price P 812,000

ATB48 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 153 sqm.
Sto. Niño Village, Bo. Libjo
Min. Bid Price P 1,059,000

BULACAN

ATB49 - IND'L LOT
L.A. 3,335 sqm.
Meycauayan Ind'l Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 9,340,000

ATB50 - IND'L LOT
L.A. 2,379 sqm.
Meycauayan Ind'l Subd.
Min. Bid Price P 6,660,000

ATB51 - WAREHOUSE
L.A. 105 sqm. F.A. 376 sqm.
198 Gil Carlos St., Baliuag
Min. Bid Price P 1,000,000

ATB52 - 2-STRY RSDL BLDG.
L.A. 250 sqm. F.A. 101.75 sqm.
Cor. Padilla St., Plaridel
Min. Bid Price P 900,000

ATB53 - POULTRY FARM
L.A. 21,532 sqm. BA. 1,134 sqm
Matang Tubig, Baliuag
Min. Bid Price P 3,170,000

ATB54 - POULTRY FARM
L.A. 60,230 sqm. L.A. 64.8 sqm
San Ildefonso
Min. Bid Price P 5,120,000

CAVITE

ATB55 - SCHOOL BLDG.
L.A. 341 sqm.
Prima Homes, Alapan
Min. Bid Price P 2,500,000

ATB56 - 2-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 60 sqm. L.A. 57.75 sqm
San Rafael Exec. Villa, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price P 900,000

ATB57 - 2 STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 60 sqm L.A. 53.50 sqm
San Rafael Exec. Villa, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price P 880,000

ATB58 - 11 TWNHOUSE UNITS
L.A. 44 sqm. L.A. 70 sqm per unit
Gold Rich Villas, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price P 6,600,000

ATB58A - Townhouse Unit
L.A. 44 sqm. L.A. 70 sqm
Gold Rich Villas, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price P 750,000

ATB59 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm.
South Plains Exec. Vill., Dasma
Min. Bid Price P 375,000

ATB60 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm.
Metropolis Green, Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price P 330,000

ATB61 - RESORT GOLF LOTS
L.A. 422 sqm.
Eagleridge Subdivision, Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price P 1,281,00

ATB62 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 610 sqm.
Eagleridge Subdivision, Gen. Trias
Min. Bid Price P 1,854,000

ATB63 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 570 sqm.
Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Min. Bid Price P 2,280,000

ATB64 - RESORT GOLF LOT
L.A. 439 sqm.
Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Min. Bid Price P 1,756,000

ATB65 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 375 sqm.
Manila Southwoods, Carmona
Min. Bid Price P 1,500,000

ATB66 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 40 sqm. F.A. 26.6 sqm.
Mary Cris Homes, Alapan, Imus
Min. Bid Price P 228,000

ATB67 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 40 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.
Mary Cris Homes, Imus
Min. Bid Price P 201,000

ATB68 - ROWHOUSE
L.A. 36 sqm. L.A. 26.6 sqm.
Mary Cris Homes, Imus
Min. Bid Price P 205,000

CEBU

ATB69 - RSDL. CONDO.
TRINITY PLAZA, Guadalupe Avenue
L.A. 32.30 Min. Bid P 981,400
L.A. 33.97 Min. Bid P 951,160
L.A. 53.05 Min. Bid P 1,485,400

ISABELA

ATB70 - 4 STRY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 11,277 sqm. L.A. 1,160
Malapat, Cordon, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 21,550,000

ATB71 - AGRI LAND
L.A. 12,607 sqm.
Maharlika H-way, Batal, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 1,522,000

ATB73 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 15,511 sqm
Brgy. Atalnal, Echague
Min Bid Price P 932,000

ATB74 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 11,250 sqm.
Bo. Quezon, San Isidro
Min. Bid Price P 765,000

ATB75 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 850 sqm.
Bo. Ramon, San Isidro
Min. Bid Price P 204,000

ATB77 - 2 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 1,806 sqm.
Maharlika H-way, Sinsayon
Min Bid Price P 1,600,000

ATB78 - 2 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 15,760 sqm.
San Mateo H-way, San Mateo
Min. Bid Price P 2,134,000

ATB79 - 4-STRY HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 531 sqm.
Pangan-ban Street, Santiago City
Min Bid Price P 18,000,000

ATB80 - COMM'L LOT
L.A. 853 sqm.
City Road, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 8,000,000

ATB81 - 4 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 3,164 sqm.
Patul Road, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 1,519,000

ATB82 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 100 sqm.
Ilang Ilang Road, Rosario
Min. Bid Price P 192,000

ATB83 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 100 sqm
Alvarez, Plaridel
Min. Bid Price P 248,000

ATB84 - 3 RSDL LOTS
L.A. 906 sqm
Alicia San Mateo Road, Alicia
Min Bid Price P 2,180,000

ATB85 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,299 sqm.
Purok Banaag, Alicia
Min Bid Price P 3,119,000

ATB86 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 1,740 sqm.
Veneza Street, Cordon, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 1,600,000

ATB101 - PIGGERY FARM
L.A 26,000 sqm. F.A 2,329.70
Baluarte, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 7,068,500

ATB102 - 3 RSDL LOT
L.A 6,000 sqm.
San Manuel, Isabela
Min. Bid Price P 1,800,000

ATB103 - RSDL LOT
L.A 116 sqm
Barrio Plaridel, Santiago City
Min. Bid Price P 200,000

ATB104 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,160 sqm.
Barrio Patul, Santiago City
Min Bid Price P 1,000,000

LAGUNA

ATB87 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 163 sqm. L.A. 45 sqm.
L15B16 Camanela St., San Jose Village II, Phase 5, Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Min. Bid Price P 950,000

ATB88 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 134 sqm. F.A. 45 sqm.
L11B7 Camanela St., San Jose Village II, Phase 5, St. Rosa, Laguna
Min. Bid Price P 850,000

ATB89 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 100 sqm
Las Villas De Manila, Biñan
Min. Bid Price P 1,500,000

ATB90 - 1 STRY WAREHOUSE
L.A. 262 sqm L.A. 241 sqm.
Brgy. San Isidro, Cabuyao
Min Bid Price P 960,000

QUEZON

ATB91 - Poultry Farm
L.A. 80,000 sqm.
Brgy. Mayabobo 2, Candelaria
Min. Bid Price P 6,400,000

TARLAC

ATB92 - RSDL LOT
L.A 2,555 sqm.
#19 Mc Arthur H-way, Moncada
Min. Bid Price P 500,000

TAGAYTAY

ATB93 - RESORT LOT
CANYON WOODS
L.A. 300 Min. Bid P 1,800,000
L.A. 349 Min. Bid P 2,094,000
L.A. 405 Min. Bid P 2,430,000
L.A. 477 Min. Bid P 2,862,000
L.A. 557 Min. Bid P 3,342,000
L.A. 630 Min. Bid P 3,780,000

ATB94 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 647 sqm.
Pacific Heights Subd
Min. Bid Price P 3,882,000

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1996 M. Benz Van UNW-836
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2001 Nissan Exalta JSL-108
2000 Hyundai Starex Van WSD-379
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and ALI MALL
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COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTIST M/F 20-28 YRS OLD MUST KNOW PHOTOSHOP /FREEHAND/ADOBE /ILLUSTRATOR OR EQUIV. GRAFIX SOFTWARE KNOWLEDGE OF MCINTOSH & ELECTRONIC STRIPPING AN ADVANTAGE
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SALES AGENTS 09178398865

TEACHERS NEEDED!!! Washington Tutorial Center Inc. CALL 820-4950

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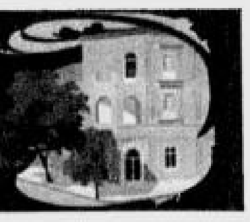

MARCH 19, 9:00 A.M. TO 12:00 NOON, FUNCTION HALL C, 3/F STARMALL EDSA COR. SHAW BLVD., MANDALUYONG CITY

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SOUTHERN AND WESTERN PROPERTIES

LAS PIÑAS

RCBC1_SB164 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 270 sqm.
Jave Murphy Street, B.F. Resort Exec. Village,
Min. Bid Price : P 1,485,000

RCBC1_SB365 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.
Lot 33, La Segovia, B.F. Resort Exec. Village,
Min. Bid Price : P 1,250,000

RCBC1_SB165 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 208 sqm. F.A. 271 sqm.
B15 L21, M. Jhocson St.
B.F. Resort Exec. Village
Min. Bid Price : P 4,050,000

RCBC1_SB366 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm F.A. 68 sqm.
Lot 30 La Segovia,
B.F. Resort Village
Min. Bid Price : P 1,500,000

RCBC1_SB167 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm
Lot 78, La Segovia,
B.F. Resort Village
Min. Bid Price : P 1,020,000

RCBC1_SB166 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 349 sqm. F.A 70 sqm.
Lot 5 & 7, B.F. Resort Village
Min. Bid Price : P 2,385,000

RCBC1_SB168 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 105 sqm.
B7-A L13, Revelation St.
CH - Classic,, Almanza
Min. Bid Price : P 1,370,000

RCBC1_SB169 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 240 sqm. F.A. 395 sqm.
B18 L4 B.F. Resort Village
Min Bid Price : P 5,960,000

RCBC1_SB170 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 315 sqm. F.A. 194 sqm.
2 Uranium St., Camella Homes Classic IV
Min. Bid Price : P 2,550,000

RCBC1_SB171 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.
L43, La Segovia, B.F. Resort Village, Talon
Min. Bid Price : P 1,020,000

RCBC1_SB173 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 148 sqm. F.A. 180 sqm.
No. 54 Minuet St., Sta. Cecilia Village, Talon Dos
Min. Bid Price : P 1,800,000

RCBC1_SB172 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.
L53, La Segovia, B.F. Resort Village,
Min. Bid Price : P 1,020,000

RCBC1_SB174 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 238 sqm F.A. 112 sqm.
No. 51, Dao Street, Pilar Village,
Min. Bid Price : P 2,000,000

RCBC1_SB367 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 298 sqm.
blk. 13 lot 13 St. Dominic cor. St. George St., Metrocor Subd.,
Min. Bid Price : P 1,192,000

MUNTINLUPA

RCBC2_SB014 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 154 sqm. F.A. 135 sqm.
L2 B12 Lakeshore Drive, Tunasan
Min. Bid Price : P 1,800,000

RCBC2_SB015 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 126 sqm. F.A. 85 sqm.
675 Esponas Compound., Putatan
Min. Bid Price . P 400,000

RCBC2_SB016 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 312 sqm.
L11 B53 Orchids St., South Greenhts Subd
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000

RCBC2_SB017 - COMM'L BLDG.
L.A. 766 sqm. F.A. 585 sqm.
247 Int. Montillano St., Alabang
Min. Bid Price: P 4,600,000

PARAÑAQUE

RCBC2_SB018 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 331 sqm
L3 B10 Everlasting cor., Violet St., Marcelo Green Village
Min. Bid Price : P 1,750,000

RCBC1_SB211 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 90 sqm FA 174 sqm.
Blk. 42 lot 27, John St., Betterliving
Min. Bid Price : P 2,950,000

RCBC1_SB212 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 72 sqm FA 72 sqm.
Unit 13 &14 Chateau Anton, Betterliving Subd.
Min. Bid Price : P 2,160,000

RCBC1_SB213 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 129 sqm FA 245 sqm.
Shenandoah Hts 15-A Shenandoah st., Shenandoah Homes
Min. Bid Price : P 3,220,000

RCBC1_SB214 - RSD'L LOT
L.A 351 sqm FA 313 sqm.
Blk. 26 lot 01, Don Bosco St., Betterliving
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

RCBC1_SB215 - RSD'L LOT
L.A. 207 sqm FA 113 sqm.
Lot 4275-G-2-1-3 Richway St., Maharlika Vill,
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

MAKATI CITY

RCBC1_SB216 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 273 sqm FA 193 sqm.
Pembo, Fort Bonifacio
Min. Bid Price : P 2,760,000

RCBC1_SB217 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 66 sqm FA 139 sqm.
Madras St., Blk. 31 Lot 13B Palanan
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

RCBC1_SB218 - RSD'L LOT
L.A.109 sqm FA 84 sqm.
Tejeros, 5124 Malolos St.
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

MANILA

RCBC1_SB219 - CONDOMINIUM
FA 70 sqm.
Empire Plaza Condo, Unit 1207
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

RCBC1_SB220 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 113 sqm FA 73 sqm
08 Callejon St., Kristineville Exec. Homes,
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

PASAY

RCBC1_SB221 - RSD'L LOT
FA 33 sqm.
Blk. 17 Lot 06, Topaz St.
Bo. San Jose
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

RCBC1_SB222 - RSD'L LOT
FA 47 sqm.
Unit 1108, 11th Flr. Sen. Gil Puyat, Buendia Tower,
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

RCBC1_SB223 - RSD'L LOT
FA 130 sqm.
8th Flr. Buendia Towers
Min. Bid Price : P CALL US

CAVITE

RCBC2_SB118 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 64 sqm F.A. 52 sqm
L30 B9 St. Rafael Ave.,
San Rafael Exec. Villas, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price: P 800,000

RCBC1_SB303 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 72 sqm F.A 38 sqm.
B1 L86 Philhomes Ville, Toklong, Kawit
Min Bid Price: P 425,000

RCBC1_SB304 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 72 sqm F.A 33 sqm
B1 L85 Philhomes Ville, Toklong, Kawit
Min. Bid Price: P 320,000

RCBC1_SB379 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 63 sqm F.A. 30 sqm.
B3 L7 Philhomes Ville, Toklong, Kawit
Min. Bid Price: P 320,000

RCBC1_SB305 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm F.A. 71 sqm.
Francisco Cmpd., V, Lot 5_A-3, Brgy. San Juan
Min. Bid Price: P 695,000

RCBC1_SB306 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 63 sqm F.A 38 sqm.
Philhomes Ville, Blk. 06 Lot 07, Toklong, Kawit
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

RCBC2_SB107 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 77 sqm F.A. 40 sqm.
L12 B6 Ohio St., Camella Homes Barcelona, Imus
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

RCBC2_SB307 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 50 sqm F.A 45 sqm
Blk 07 lot 29, Barcelona IV, Tanzang Luma, Imus
Min. Bid Price: P 300,000

RCBC2_SB308 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 231 sqm F.A. 130 sqm.
Blk. 04 lot 23, Via Verde Village, Poinsettia .Imus
Min Bid Price: P 1,620,000

RCBC2_SB111 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 110 sqm F.A. 126 sqm.
L29 B12 Margarita Dr., La Mediterranea, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000

RCBC1_SB309 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 53 sqm F.A. 93 sqm.
Georosville, Blk. 05 Lot 45, Pag asa II
Min Bid Price: P 880,000

RCBC2_SB113 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 109 sqm. F.A. 72 sqm.
L32 B15 Montecillo St., La Mediterranea, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 1,280,000

RCBC2_SB114 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 110 sqm. F.A 126 sqm
252 Margarita St., La Mediterranea, Dasma
Min Bid Price: P 1,600,000

RCBC2_SB310 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 126 sqm F.A 72 sqm
L45 B16 Montecillo St., La Mediterrenea, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 1,100,000

RCBC2_SB109 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 35 sqm. F.A. 26 sqm.
L10 B7 Naples St., Carissa Homes, San Marino, Dasma
Min. Bid Price: P 140,000

RCBC1_SB120 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 80 sqm.
Georgetown Heights II, Blk. 46 Lot 05, Molino
Min. Bid Price : P 625,000

RCBC1_SB121 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
Addas 2-C, Blk 04 Lot 06, St. Bernard St., Molino
Min. Bid Price : P 595,000

RCBC1_SB119 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 85 sqm. F.A. 45 sqm.
L32 B4 CH-, Banaba St., Habay, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 655,000

RCBC1_SB112 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
L6 B48 Georgetown Heights II, Molino, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 755,000

RCBC1_SB125 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 109 sqm. F.A. 93 sqm.
Sorrento Executive Homes, Panapaan, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price . P 1,150,000

RCBC1_SB126 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 111 sqm. F.A. 60 sqm.
B4 L1 Sorrento Executive Homes, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 730,000

RCBC1_SB311 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 110 sqm. F.A. 45 sqm.
, Blk. 09 lot 11, Springville Executive Village I, Molino
Min. Bid Price : P 710,000

RCBC1_SB128 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 60 sqm. F.A. 54 sqm.
San Rafael Exec. Villa, Habay, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 675,000

RCBC1_SB312 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 112 sqm. F.A. 45 sqm.
Blk. 7 lot 2, Sorrento Homes, Habay
Min. Bid Price : P 770,000

RCBC1_SB124 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 63 sqm.
Woodwind Village, Molino IV, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 1,100,000

RCBC1_SB123 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
Georgetown Heights II, Molino, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 805,000

RCBC1_SB130 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 110 sqm F.A. 42 sqm.
Managers Drive, Springville Exec. I, Bacoor
Min. Bid Price : P 565,000

RCBC1_SB313 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 88 sqm. F.A. 25 sqm.
Blk. 07 lot 10, Burol III, Windsor Homes, Dasma
Min. Bid Price : P 210,000

RCBC1_SB131 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 110 sqm. F.A. 50 sqm.
B3 L7 Springville Exec. I Managers Dr., Bacoor
Min. Bid Price P 835,000

RCBC1_SB314 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 141 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm.
La Mediterannea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 965,000

RCBC1_SB315 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 130 sqm. F.A. 83 sqm.
B19 L17 La Mediterannea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 1,430,000

RCBC1_SB316 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 126 sqm. F.A. 80 sqm.
La Mediterannea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 1,230,000

RCBC1_SB318 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 242 sqm. F.A. 83 sqm.
La Mediterannea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 1,475,000

RCBC1_SB116 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 132 sqm. F.A. 84 sqm.
La Mediterannea, Covina Triangle, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 950,000

RCBC1_SB319 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 40 sqm. F.A. 63 sqm.
L5-A B9 La Mediterannea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 1,260,000

RCBC1_SB320 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 99 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm.
La Mediterannea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 675,000

RCBC1_SB321 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 126 sqm. F.A. 80 sqm.
B11 L3 La Mediterranea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 1,230,000

RCBC1_SB322 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 132 sqm. F.A. 84 sqm.
B14 L10 La Mediterranea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 1,130,000

RCBC1_SB325 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 99 sqm. F.A. 70 sqm.
La Mediterranea, Pala-Pala, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 1,225,000

RCBC1_SB326 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 109 sqm. F.A. 27 sqm.
B1 L1 Alley I, Windsor Homes, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 300,000

RCBC1_SB327 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 174 sqm. F.A. 84 sqm.
B15 L24 Montecillo St., La Mediterranea, Dasma
Min. Bid Price : P 1,500,000

RCBC1_SB328 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 84 sqm. F.A. 30 sqm.
B1 L8 Windsor Homes, Dasmariñas
Min. Bid Price : P 310,000

RCBC1_SB132 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 90 sqm. F.A. 28 sqm.
B6 L13 Sunnydale Executive Subd., Alapan, Imus
Min. Bid Price : P 300,000

RCBC1_SB134 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 109 sqm. F.A. 25 sqm.
B6 L12 Sunnydale Executive Subd., Alapan
Min. Bid Price : P 330,000

RCBC1_SB329 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 167 sqm. F.A. 30 sqm.
B2 L2 Sunnydale Executive Subd., Alapan
Min. Bid Price : P 790,000

RCBC1_SB135 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 90 sqm. F.A 25 sqm.
B6 L14 Sunnydale Executive Subd , Alapan
Min. Bid Price : P 290,000

RCBC1_SB133 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 137 sqm. F.A. 31 sqm.
B8 L2 Sunnydale Executive Subd., Alapan
Min. Bid Price : P 530,000

RCBC1_SB378 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 88 sqm. F.A. 30 sqm.
B7 L14 Sunnydale Executive Subd., Alapan
Min. Bid Price : P 470,000

GENERAL SANTOS CITY

RCBC_SB136 - AGRI LOT
L.A. 745 sqm
San Isidro, Gen. Santos City
Min. Bid Price: P 350,000

ILO-ILO CITY

RCBC2_SB137 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 3,060 sqm
Divinagracia St., La Paz
Min. Bid Price: P 7,250,000

LAGUNA

RCBC2_SB330 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm. F.A. 110 sqm.
Padila Complex, no. 1 C.P. Garcia
Min. Bid Price: P 2,458,000

RCBC2_SB138 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 135 sqm. F.A. 76 sqm.
532 Apricot St., La Marea, San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 1,200,000

RCBC2_SB331 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 252sqm Fasqm 100
Lakeshore Homes, Subd., #240 Rosal St., Sto. Somingo, Bay
Min. Bid Price: P 1,630,000

RCBC2_SB332 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 110sqm. Fa sqm 51
Blk.06 lot 37 Sto. Domingo, Lakeshore Homes, Bay
Min. Bid Price: P 683,000

RCBC1_SB158 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 181 sqm. FA 167 sqm
B8 L 4 5.6,&7 Don Miguel, Subd., San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 2,800,000

RCBC1_SB333 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 190/298 sqm. FA 430sqm
B3 L 31 & 32 Jamaica Hills Subd., Bambang
Min. Bid Price: P 5,938,000

RCBC2_SB334 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 150/220/174 sqm.
Blk. 21 lot's 33-35, San LorenzoVillage, Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 2,807,000

RCBC2_SB335 - HOUSE & LOT
CALL US FOR INFO
Blk. 05 lot 07, Paloma Drive, South Drive Village,
Min. Bid Price. P CALL US

RCBC2_SB139 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 573 sqm F.A. 82 sqm.
L 15 & 16 B4 Chesnut St., La Marea, San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 3,056,000

RCBC1_SB141 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 259 sqm. F.A. 160 sqm
B37 L6 Buhangin Garden Vill., Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

RCBC2_SB140 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 100 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
L5 B2 Palmera Homes, Brgy. Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price : P 140,000

RCBC2_SB142 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 193 sqm F.A 77 sqm.
L30 B2 Along Barrio Rd., Sto. Domingo, Bay
Min. Bid Price : P 360,000

RCBC2_SB148 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm
L22 B8 La Residencia de Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 900,000

RCBC1_SB336 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 259 sqm
B30 L1 La Residencia de Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC1_SB337 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 259 sqm
Blk. 30 Lot 01, La Residencia de Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC1_SB338 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 182 sqm
L27 B26 Zenon St., La Residencia Subd.,
Min. Bid Price: P 1,000,000

RCBC1_SB339 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 832 sqm
L08 B03 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC1_SB340 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 739 sqm
L3 B12 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC1_SB341 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 875 sqm
L5 B5 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC2_SB143 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 575 sqm
L9 B13 Promenade Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

RCBC2_SB144 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 809 sqm
L6 B2 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 5,000,000

RCBC1_SB342 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 958 sqm
L43 B4 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC2_SB343 - RSDL LOT
L.A 637 sqm
L43 B7 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price: P 4,000,000

RCBC1_SB344 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 271 sqm FA 150 sqm.
Bo. Sinalhan, Bo. Rd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P CALL US

RCBC2_SB345 - RDSL LOT
L.A. 546 sqm
L1 B7 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 3,500,000

RCBC2_SB145 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 615 sqm
L42 B7 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 3,700,000

RCBC2_SB346 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 711 sqm
L30 B4 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 4,300,000

RCBC2 SB347 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 735 sqm
L37 B4 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 4,400,000

RCBC2_SB146 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 744 sqm
L38 B4 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 4,500,000

RCBC2_SB348 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 727 sqm
L39 B4 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 4,400,000

RCBC2_SB349 - RSDL LOT
L.A 690 sqm
L8 B7 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price: P 4,100,000

RCBC2_SB350 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 696 sqm
L3 B3 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min Bid Price P 4,100,000

RCBC2_SB351 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 824 sqm
L2 B5 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 5,000,000

RCBC2_SB147 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 530 sqm
L29 B11 Belle Reve Subd. Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

RCBC2_SB352 - RSDL LOT
L.A 501sqm
L60 B11 Belle Reve Subd., Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 3,000,000

RCBC2_SB149 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 276 sqm
L26 B26 Zenon St., La Residencia, Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 1,500,000

RCBC2_SB151 - HOUSE &LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 94 sqm.
L7 B6 Cypress St., La Marea, Ph 1 San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 1,340,000

RCBC2_SB354 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 128 sqm. F.A. 94 sqm.
L7 B7 La Marea Subd., San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 1,395,000

RCBC2_SB152 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 252 sqm
L13 B2 Parklane St., La Marea, San Pedro
Min. Bid Price: P 2,700,000

RCBC2_SB355 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 174 sqm
L10 B33 La Residencia, Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 1,100,000

RCBC2_SB150 - RSDL LOT
L.A 335 sqm
L19 B2 La Reina St., La Residencia, Sta Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 2,300,000

RCBC2_SB357 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 300 sqm
L17 B10 La Residencia, Sta Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 1,700,000

RCBC2_SB358 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 232 sqm
L2 B12 La Residencia, Sta. Rosa
Min. Bid Price: P 1,300,000

RCBC2_SB359 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 100 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
L6 B2 Palmera Homes, Brgy. Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 140,000

RCBC2_SB153 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 73 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
L2 B2 Palmera Homes, Brgy. Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 130,000

RCBC2_SB360 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 83 sqm F.A. 36 sqm.
L1 B2 Palmera Homes, Brgy Cabuo-an, Sta Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 130,000

RCBC2_SB154 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A 97 sqm. F.A. 36 sqm.
L2 B6 Palmera Homes, Brgy. Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 140,000

RCBC2_SB361 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 90 sqm F.A. 36 sqm.
L3 B2 Palmera Homes, Brgy. Cabuo-an, Sta. Maria
Min. Bid Price: P 140,000

RCBC2_SB155 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 78 sqm F.A. 42 sqm.
L18 B8 Camella Bermuda Homes, Banlic Cabuyao
Min. Bid Price: P 360,000

RCBC1_SB362 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 181 sqm. F.A. 167 sqm.
Blk 6 Lot 15, La Marea Trails, San Antonio
Min. Bid Price : P 2,800,000

RCBC1_SB161 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 118 sqm. F.A. 64 sqm.
Blk 9 Lot 8, La Marea, San Antonio
Min. Bid Price : P 1,300,000

RCBC1_SB160 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 120 sqm. F.A. 64 sqm.
Blk 14 Lot 17, La Marea, San Antonio
Min. Bid Price · P 1,225,000

RCBC1 SB364 - RSDL LOT
L.A. 150 sqm.
B10 L17, La Residencia de Sta. Rosa,
Min. Bid Price : P 1,800,000

RCBC1_SB163 - RSDL LOT
L.A 530 sqm.
Blk 11 Lot 29, Belle Reve Subd.
Min. Bid Price : P 3,445,000

RCBC1_SB156 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 73 sqm. F.A. 32 sqm.
B5 L5, Barley St., CH-Banlic, Cabuyao
Min. Bid Price : P 350,000

RCBC1_SB157 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 40 sqm. F.A. 21 sqm.
B18 L8, Mamatid, St. Joseph Village III, Cabuyao
Min Bid Price · P 155,000

QUEZON PROVINCE

RCBC_SB192 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 200 sqm F.A. 69 sqm.
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Min. Bid Price: P 600,000

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR EN BANC MEETING OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2005

Present:
Chairman Benjamin S. Abalos, Sr.
Commissioner Rufino S. B. Javier
Commissioner Resurreccion Z. Borra
Commissioner Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.
Commissioner Virgilio O. Garcillano
Commissioner Manuel A. Barcelona, Jr.

On Official Business:
Commissioner Mehol K. Sadain

xxx xxx xxx

05-0196, IN THE MATTER OF AMENDMENTS AND ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS ON THE PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE RENAMING OF BRGY. POBLACION II INTO BRGY. AURELIO F. FREIRES, SR., LEBAK, SULTAN KUDARAT

This pertains to the 16 February 2005 Memorandum of Acting Deputy Executive Director for Operations, Jose M. Tolentino, Jr. in connection with the proposed plebiscite changing the name of Brgy. Poblacion II into Brgy. Aurelio F. Freires, Sr., Lebak, Sultan Kudarat, formerly scheduled last November 27, 2004 but was held in abeyance due to lack of funds. Now that funds are available, the parties concerned requested for the ratification of said barangay, hence, the Deputy Executive Director for Operations proposed certain amendments thereto.

The Memorandum of Director Tolentino reads:

"This pertains to the plebiscite to ratify the renaming of Brgy. Poblacion II into Brgy. Aurelio F. Freires, Sr. in Lebak, Sultan Kudarat scheduled last November 27, 2004 per Resolution No. 7389 dated November 9, 2004, wherein the Commission has resolved as follows:

1. *To approve the conduct of the plebiscite changing the name of Poblacion II into Brgy. Aurelio F. Freires, Sr., in the Municipality of Lebak, Sultan Kudarat, to be held on 27 November 2004;*
2. *To adopt Resolution No. 5923 dated 29 January 2003, re Rules and Regulations Governing the Conduct of the 04 February 2003 Plebiscite to Ratify The Creation of Barangay Pulung Bulu, San Fernando, Pampanga and as adopted by Resolution No. 6223 dated 26 June 2003 on the Change of Name of Barangay Lamag to Barangay Patungcallo, Quirino, Ilocos Sur, for purposes of this plebiscite;*
3. *To direct the Election Officer under the direct supervision of the PES, said province, that plebiscite official ballots, returns and Certificate of Canvass and Proclamation be computer-generated using 70 gsm coupon bond, the total quantity to be based on one hundred percent of registered voters in the barangay which shall officially be authenticated by the Election Office and the Municipal Treasurer at the back thereof and witnesses by the proponent and the oppositors, if any;*
4. *To direct the Allocation and Packing and the Shipping Committees to provide the Municipal Election Officer and Municipal Treasurer samples of the accountable and non-accountable forms to be used;*
5. *To require the municipality concerned to purchase all plebiscite supplies including the padlocks for use thereat;*
6. *To direct the Election Officer and the Municipal Treasurer to improvise or fabricate the other non-accountable forms notifying all parties concerned of said action;*
7. *To require the local government unit of Lebak and Brgy. Poblacion II to remit the amount of Sixty Thousand Pesos (P60,000.00) for the publication of the Comelec Resolution on Calendar of Activities in a newspaper of general circulation, and for other incidental expenses; and*
8. *To require the LGUs concerned that they shall jointly cause and pay for the publication in a local newspaper, of said calendar of activities and shall directly pay the Plebiscite Committees/other electoral workers as well as provide funds for the plebiscite forms, supplies and incidental expenses.*

The plebiscite, originally scheduled last 27 November 2004 did not push through due to lack of funds. Considering that funds are now available per hereto attached certification dated February 15, 2005 issued by Brgy. Treasurer Nancy R. Sabio of Brgy. Poblacion II, this office recommends the following, as amendments and in addition; to aforesaid requirements already approved by the Commission, to wit:

1. *To reschedule the plebiscite to March 31, 2005 (Thursday), per request of the barangay officials of Brgy. Poblacion II;*
2. *To follow a twelve-day plebiscite period, per hereto attached Calendar of Activities; and*
3. *To follow the hereto attached proposed budget estimate prepared by this office amounting to P150,160.00, and to direct proponent Brgy. Poblacion II to remit the amount of P35,000 to COMELEC-Main, to cover publication expenses of the Calendar of Activities in a newspaper of general circulation.*

Respectfully submitted for consideration."

The Commission **RESOLVED**, as it hereby **RESOLVES** as follows:

1) To reschedule the plebiscite for the renaming of Brgy. Poblacion II into Brgy. Aurelio F. Freires, Sr., Lebak, Sultan Kudarat from the original schedule of 27 November 2004, to March 31, 2005 (Thursday);
2) To approve the Calendar of Activities following a twelve-day (12-day) plebiscite period;
3) To adopt Resolution No. 5923 as adopted in Resolution No. 6223 re Rules and Regulations Governing the conduct of the Plebiscite on the creation of Brgy. Pulung Bulu, San Fernando, Pampanga and the Change of Name of Brgy. Lamag to Barangay Patungcallo, Quirino, Ilocos Sur, respectively, for purposes of the plebiscite renaming Brgy. Poblacion II into Brgy. Aurelio F. Freires, Sr., Lebak, Sultan Kudarat; and
4) To approve the budget estimates prepared by the Office of the Deputy Executive Director for Operations, copy of which is attached hereto forming part hereof, amounting to One Hundred **Fifty Thousand One Hundred Sixty Pesos (Php150,160.00)**, and to direct proponent Brgy. Poblacion II to remit the amount of **Thirty-five Thousand Pesos (Php35,000.00)** to COMELEC-Main, to cover publication expenses.

Let the Education and Information Department cause the publication of this resolution in a newspaper of general circulation, and the Deputy Executive Director for Operations to implement the same.

SO ORDERED.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS, SR.
Chairman

RUFINO S.B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

MANUEL A. BARCELONA, JR.
Commissioner

cc: Chairperson
All Commissioners
Executive Director
Deputy Executive Director for Operations
Education and Information Department

(PDI - March 6, 2005)

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES AND PERIODS ON PROHIBITED ACTS IN CONNECTION WITH THE 31 MARCH 2005 PLEBISCITE TO RATIFY THE RENAMING OF BARANGAY POBLACION II INTO BARANGAY AURELIO F. FREIRES, SR PURSUANT TO LEBAK SANGGUNIANG BAYAN RESOLUTION NO. 161, s-03 DATED JULY 7, 2003 AND RESOLUTION NO. 07, SERIES OF 2002 OF THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY OF POBLACION II, LEBAK, SULTAN KUDARAT

ABALOS, Benjamin S.	Chairman
JAVIER, Rufino S.B.,	Commissioner
SADAIN, Mehol K.,	Commissioner
BORRA, Resurreccion Z.,	Commissioner
TUASON, Florentino A., Jr.	Commissioner
GARCILLANO, Virgilio O.	Commissioner
BARCELONA, Manuel A., Jr.	Commissioner

Promulgated: 22 February 2005

RESOLUTION NO. 7440

Pursuant to the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 7160, and other election laws, the Commission on Elections has resolved to adopt, as it hereby adopts, the following Calendar of Activities and Periods on Prohibited Acts for the plebiscite to ratify the renaming of Barangay Poblacion II into Barangay Aurelio Freires, Sr., in Lebak, Sultan Kudarat.

DATE/PERIOD	PLEBISCITE ACTIVITIES	PROHIBITED ACTS COVERED/INVOLVED
MARCH 21, 2005 (MON) to April 1, 2005 (FRI)	PLEBISCITE PERIOD	1 Bearing, carrying or transporting firearms or other deadly weapons in public places, including any building, street, park, private vehicle or public conveyance, even if licensed to possess or carry the same, unless authorized in writing by the Commission. (Sec. 261 (p) (q) (s) OEC as amended by Sec. 32 R.A. No. 7166, 2. Suspension of elective local officials. (Sec. 261 (x) OEC); 3. Transfer of officers and employees in the Civil Service. (Sec. 261 (h) OEC); 4. Organization or / maintenance of reaction forces, strike forces or other similar forces. (Sec. 261 (u) OEC).
March 21, 2005 (MON) to March 31, 2005 (THU)		1. Appointment or hiring of new employees. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 2/ Creation or filling up of new positions. (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 3. Promotions or giving of salary increases, remuneration or privilege: (Sec. 261 (g) OEC); 4. Construction of public works, delivery of materials for public works and issuance of treasury warrants or similar devices for a future undertaking chargeable against public funds. (Sec. 261 (w) OEC); 5. Releases, disbursements or expenditures of public works and social services and development. (Sec. 261 (v) OEC); 6. Appointment or use of special policemen, special/confidential agents or the like. (Sec. 261 (m) OEC); 7. Use of Armored land, water or aircraft. (Sec. 261 (r) OEC); 8. Wearing of uniforms and bearing of arms. (Sec. 261 (s) OEC).
March 21, 2004 (MON) to March 29, 2005 (TUE)	CAMPAIGN PERIOD	
March 21, 2005 (MON)	Submission to Comelec of complete list of all special policemen, special/confidential agents or persons performing similar functions in the employ of barangay chairman, municipal mayor or any appointing authority	
March 28, 2005 (MON)	Last day for appointment of members of Plebiscite Committees	
March 29, 2005 (TUE) to March 31, 2005 (THU)	Posting of the List of Voters as of May 10, 2004	
March 30, 2005 (WED)	Inspection of Polling Places	1. Liquor Ban 2 Campaigning March 30, 2005 12:01 MN to March 31, 2005 12:00 MN
March 31, 2005	PLEBISCITE DAY Convening of the Board of Canvassers	1 Campaigning 2 Cockfighting, and other forms of gambling, holding fairs, boxing and/or any other similar sports. (Sec. 261 (dd) OEC 3. Selling, furnishing, offering, buying, serving, or taking intoxicating liquor, etc. (Sec. 261 (dd), (1), OEC). 4 Giving, accepting free transportation, food drinks and things of value (Sec. 89, OEC). 5 Opening of booths or stalls for the sale of merchandise, refreshment, etc within 30 meters radius from polling place (Sec. 261 (dd) (2) OEC).
April 1, 2005 (FRI)	LAST DAY OF PLEBISCITE PERIOD	

Let the Education and Information Department (EID) cause the publication of this Resolution in one (1) newspaper of general circulation, and furnish copies hereof to the Offices of the Regional Election Director of Region XII, the Provincial Election Supervisor of Sultan Kudarat, the Election Officer of Lebak, the Secretary of the Department of The Interior and Local Government, the Governor of Sultan Kudarat, the Mayor of Lebak and the Directors/Heads of deputized government agencies in Region XII and in the Province of Sultan Kudarat.

The Deputy Executive Director for Operations, assisted by the Directors of the Election and Barangay Affairs Department and the Education and Information Department shall implement this Resolution.

This Resolution shall take effect upon its promulgation.

SO ORDERED

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RUFINO S. B. JAVIER
Commissioner

MEHOL K. SADAIN
Commissioner

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

VIRGILIO O. GARCILLANO
Commissioner

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Commissioner

(PDI - March 6, 2005)

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VSO does not work by sending equipment, medical supplies or aid. **We send skilled people**. These VSO volunteers live and work at the heart of communities in **Africa, Asia, the Balkans, the Caribbean** and **the Pacific**, exchanging ideas with the local people in order to help them to help themselves.

VSO volunteers share their professional skills and experience with local communities and partners, helping them to set up and run projects that will benefit their own communities. Once these projects are up and running, local people can keep them going when the volunteers who helped to start them return home. Many VSO Returned Volunteers say they come home with improved skills in areas, such as team building, problem solving, the ability to cope with difficult situations, and strategic thinking.

VSO recognizes the power of individuals driven by their commitment to make a difference wherever they are. Through **VSO Bahaginan**, its National Partner Agency in the Philippines, VSO offers a unique opportunity for **Filipino professionals** to share their skills with some of the world's most disadvantaged people in other developing countries.

If you're from **25 to 65 years old with at least 3 years of professional experience in Business & Management, Community & Social Development, Health, and Technical & Natural Resources**, VSO Bahaginan can set you on course to one of the most rewarding experiences of your life.

VSO provide volunteers with a comprehensive package of training and support that includes **pre-departure and in-country trainings, return airfare, health insurance and vaccinations, accommodation, a modest living allowance and a small end-of-service grant.**

VSO Bahaginan is not just about working overseas in another country. We also **support national volunteering by building partnerships** to strengthen and build the capacities of local volunteer organizations. If the time is not right for you to volunteer, you can still help us build a fairer world. We also need people who are prepared to **support us through donations, or by taking part in fundraising and awareness-raising activities**, to help us in our work.

Interested and qualified volunteers may request for a VSO application form via email at bahaginan@vsoint.org or through postmail by writing to:

The Director
VSO Bahaginan
Unit 505, Pacific Corporate Center
131 West Avenue, Quezon City 1105

You may also visit our website at **www.vsobahaginan.org.ph** to download a VSO application form and know more about **VSO Bahaginan**. To get the bigger picture, check out **www.vso.org.uk.**

Note to Applicants: The application and selection of volunteers entails a rigorous procedure, which takes some time. We recommend that applicants use such time to reflect on their commitment to become a VSO volunteer. We also ask you to bear with us and consider the screening process, and wait for our communication before you follow up on your application. Finally, we encourage only qualified volunteers, given the above details, to apply. Thank you.

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Interested parties may secure the sale documents from the PMO Marketing Dept. at non-refundable fees of P500.00 for Carruf and P300.00 for Delta.

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For more information, please contact the PMO Marketing Dept. at telephone nos. 817-6331; 817-8762; 818-4733; 892-2145 fax no. 818-0906.

(PDI--March 4, 5 & 6, 2005)

OPPORTUNITY OF A LIFETIME!!!

Atty. Lorenzo Miranda a US based immigration lawyer would give information regarding PERM.

Under this program of the US Department of Labor, which will take effect on March 28, 2005.

Facilities in the US could sponsor (green card) under unskilled labor category as :

- **Caregivers**
- **babysitter / Nanny**
- **Domestic Helper**

Hurry ! Seat is limited. For reservation please call :
02-714 2458 , 09182486494 , 09224815916

Venue : Grand Boulevard Hotel Roxas Blvd., Manila
Time: 2:00 - 5:00 PM
Date: March 12 & 13, 2005

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **MR. ERIC FRANCIS C. ZAFRA** is no longer connected with **C.F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.** effective **February 21, 2005.**

All transactions entered into by the person stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

(PDI – March 6, 2005)

JOB Market ONLINE

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JOB Market

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education (DepEd)
SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)
National Project Management Office (NPMO)
5th Floor, Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City
Telephone Nos. 635-9822; 631-0673; Telefax No. 635-9826

DepED

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date : February 24, 2005
Loan No. : PH-P200
IFRB No. : SEDIP-2005-FURN-JBIC

1. The Republic of the Philippines through the Department of Education (DepEd) has received a loan from the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC) in Japanese Yen towards financing the cost of Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDIP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contracts for the supply and delivery of Furniture to Selected Secondary Schools in the Philippines.
2. The DepEd through the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and delivery of school furniture for classrooms, science laboratories, home economics, industrial arts, libraries, faculty rooms and guidance rooms of the different secondary schools in the four (4) Batch 1 and five (5) Batch 2 Division Offices under SEDIP following the schedule below:

Division Office	Start of Issuance of Bid Documents	Time and Date of Prebid Conference	Time and Date of Bid Opening	Venue	Telephone No.
Batch 1					
Agusan del Sur	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Agusan del Sur, Patin-ay, Prosperidad	085-3437487
Antique	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Antique, San Jose	036-5408988
Guimaras	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Guimaras, Jordan	033-2371032 2371612
Surigao del Sur	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Guimaras, Tandag	086-2113225
Batch 2					
Biliran	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Biliran, Naval	09192797356 053-5009279-80
Leyte	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Leyte, Palo	053-3238981 3239548
Masbate	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Masbate, Masbate	056-3334372 3336375
Negros Oriental	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Negros Oriental, Dumaguete City	035-2250687 225-2838
Zamboanga del Sur	March 9, 2005	10:00 AM March 18, 2005	10:00 AM April 8, 2005	Division Office of Zamboanga del Sur, Pagadian City	062-2143575

3. Bidders are required to submit bid for the complete quantity of all the furniture items intended for the schools in each Division per schedule of requirements of the bidding documents.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain complete information about the proposed project upon submission of Letter of Intent and acquire the bidding documents from the concerned Division BAC Office with telephone number and addresses listed in paragraph 2 or may visit the DepEd Website at http://www.deped.gov.ph or the Procurement Service at http://www.procurement service.org.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting on the date stated in paragraph 2 upon payment to the Cashier of the Division Office of a non-refundable fee of Three Hundred Pesos only (P300.00)
6. Sealed bids, together with the bid security of equivalent percentage for the total bid amount as specified in ITB-7 page 5 of the Instruction to Bidders, must be delivered to the respective offices of the Division BAC at the time, date and place as indicated in the above paragraph 2. Said bids will be opened immediately for reading in public in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.
7. The Division BAC concerned reserve the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality therein and award the furniture packages to one or more bidders.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary for Administration and Finance

(PDI - March 06 & 13, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Transportation and Communications
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
Regional Office No. V
Legazpi City

Case No. LMRO 05-021

R E. Application for grant of a Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate liner service in the operation of its ship in its applied route for the carriage of passengers and cargoes and to charge deregulated rates and to operate under a deregulated schedule of trips pursuant to Republic Act No. 9295 and its implementing Rules and Regulations.

MILLER L. SANTIAGO
Applicant
x-----------------------------x

O R D E R

This refers to the application for grant of Certificate of Public Convenience (CPC) to operate the following ship in its route, under the following sailing frequency, schedule of trips and rates:

Name of Ship/s	GRT	Service/s offered /to be offered	Name of Ship/s	GRT	Service/s offered /to be offered
MB "TRIPLE-M	16 54	Passenger /Cargo			

Route/s to be served:
Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate - Estancia, Iloilo and vice versa:
Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate - Banica, Roxas City and vice versa
Sailing Frequenc(ies)/ Schedule

Departure			Arrival		
Port	Day	Time	Port	Day	Time
Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate	Sunday	8:00 AM	Estancia, Iloilo	Sunday	1:00 PM
Estancia, Iloilo	Tuesday	8:00 AM	Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate	Tuesday	1:00 PM
Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate	Thursday	8:00 AM	Banica, Roxas City	Thursday	1:00 PM
Banica, Roxas City	Friday	8:00 AM	Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate	Friday	1:00 PM

Rates on a per link Basis

Links	Passenger Rates	Cargo Rates	
Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate - Estancia, Iloilo	P 250.00	Rice	75 00/sack
Calasuche, Milagros, Masbate - Banica, Roxas City	300.00	Gen. Merchandise	10.00/box
		Fresh Seafoods	3.00/kilo
		Dried Seafoods	3.00/kilo

The Applicant shall cause the publication of this Order once in any of the five (5) major newspapers of national circulation in the Philippines or in a newspaper of local circulation, as applicable.

The Applicant shall likewise simultaneously cause the posting of this Order in a conspicuous place at the affected ports, ships, Applicant's premises, passenger terminal/s and ticketing offices, as applicable.

The applicant shall present the jurisdictional, qualification and documentary requirements in a summary proceeding to be conducted on 15 March 2005, Tuesday at 2:30 PM at the Hearing Room, Maritime Industry Authority-V, 2nd Floor RCBC Bldg., Rizal St., Legazpi City, which is within seven (7) days from the date of Publication/posting.

The Applicant shall be required to make a written Formal Offer of Evidence (FOE), afterwhich, the application is deemed submitted for resolution/decision.

WITNESS the Honorable Administrator, VICENTE T. SUAZO, JR. this 4th day of March 2005.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE BOARD:

LUCITA T. MADARANG
Regional Director

(PDI - March 06, 2005)

EMBASSY of the
ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT
MANILA

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Egyptian Embassy in Manila, announces the need for purchasing 2 new buildings in Makati City as a residence for Ambassador and the Embassy. General Description are as follows:

For the residence: Lot size between 1000-1500 square meters, building size 800-1000 square meter, located either in Dasmariñas Village, North or South Forbes Park. Reception areas- salons- dinning rooms- master bedroom- 3 bedrooms- service quarters-living rooms-kitchen-storage-bathrooms. (General description of the premises and facilities is also required)

For the Embassy: Lot size between 800-1000 square meters, building size 600-700 square meter in Dasmariñas Village. Reception areas for visitors-offices spaces (for ambassador and staff) multi purpose hall, bathrooms, kitchenettes, staircases, etc. It is also required that the building should be seismic upgraded.

For more information and submissions of offers, contact the Egyptian Embassy at: 2229 Paraiso corner Banyan St. Dasmariñas Village, Makati. Tel no.: 8439220 or 8439232. Offers shall be submitted within 20 days from the date of announcement.

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ContactPoint Outsource Services, Inc. is a customer relationship management company utilizing voice technologies. A spin-off from the call center operations of Pacific Internet Philippines, ContactPoint evolved into a fully operational global outsourcing call center in November 2002.

ContactPoint has now become one of the fastest growing call centers, expanding operations capacity by more than 300% in less than a year's time. Located in the heart of Ortigas Business Center, ContactPoint services US-based clients included in Fortune Top 500 Companies offering complete outbound, inbound, and customer service capabilities to a wide range of businesses and consumer markets.

Call Center Agents (PDI-CCA)

for our Local and International Campaigns

Fresh graduates/Entry level applicants are encouraged to apply.

Previous experience in telemarketing and/or as an outbound call center agent is an advantage (but not required).

Interviews are held Monday - Friday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Walk-in applicants shall be interviewed immediately

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31 Floor Wynsum Corporate Plaza, Emerald Avenue,
Ortigas Center Pasig City
Tel.: 910-5181, 82 & 84 | Fax : 9105183

www.contactpoint.bz

Please indicate Job Code on your application form and/or resume to facilitate processing of your application.

Office Manager – Philippines

An international, marine conservation/sustainable development NGO is seeking to fill above position as it expands its Asia-Pacific operations. The position is based in Makati, Metro Manila.

Candidates must be able to:

- Provide leadership and coordination in all areas of administrative and HR Management;
- Develop and implement accounting/financial systems and procedures, with emphasis on internal controls;
- Assist in budget planning and preparation;
- Prepare accounting, bookkeeping and banking reports;
- Help project managers and field staff comply with office policies and procedures;
- Work with relevant government agencies to ensure the organization's compliance with Philippine laws and related rules and regulations on taxation, employee, benefits, documentation and periodic report submission;
- Administer payroll and benefits for staff;
- Coordinate meetings and workshops;
- Function as a liaison between the Philippine Office and the overseas-based Secretariat;
- Develop ways to improve efficiency and accountability of office work flow;
- Manage office files/documents/records;
- Assist field staff with travel and communication.

Qualifications:

- Bachelors in accounting, finance or other equivalent degree or at least five years related experience.
- Experience in managing an office with field staff and activities.
- Good communication skills, both written and spoken.
- Good problem solver, analytical and adaptable.
- Excellent computer (PC) skills and experience, including accounting software, spreadsheets and e-mail.

The organization is seeking a three-year commitment from candidates, based on an annually renewable contract with a salary commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Interested applicants should send a covering letter, curriculum vitaé and the names and contact details of three referees via e-mail to.

grants_manager@yahoo.com

The closing date for applications is March 10, 2005

Earn What You Are Worth!!!

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The country's fastest growing publishing company is looking for top-notch sales people for the position of

Business Development Consultant

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   - The Business Development Consultant will be directly responsible for soliciting advertisements for Hinge Media publications and getting sponsors for its events
2. **What we can offer:**
   - Above-industry base salary plus substantial direct commissions for every closed sale (average monthly commissions of P15 000 to P60,000 per month)
   - Professional sales training and coaching from top sales experts
   - Travel opportunities
   - Outstanding and easy-to-market products
3. **Requirements**
   - Must be a graduate of any four-year course from a reputable university
   - Must be 21 to 35 years old, aggressive and hardworking
   - Must possess excellent verbal and written communication skills
   - Must have strong, persuasive presentation skills
   - Work experience and proven track record in advertising sales is a plus

BEST
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Applicants are required to personally bring their resume, two pieces of 2x2 pictures at Hinge Media office, 2304-05 Cityland Herrera Tower 98, Herrera corner Valero Streets, Salcedo Street, Makati City, Philippines (phone: 813-68-48), from March 7 to March 11, 2005 from 9:00am to 5:00 pm (look for Mr. John Calub)

Apply Now! Only 4 full-time positions available!!!

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mapúa

IT CENTER

We have an immediate opening for a

Senior Software Developer

- Lead multiple software development teams
- Provide technical consultancy in sales and marketing activities
- Assists in the planning and administration of the business unit's operations

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in information technology or related area
- At least 2 years experience in Java programming
- At least 1 year supervisory experience
- General knowledge of the following J2SE, database technologies, web development and web technologies, Sun Solaris OS, Windows OS, and Linux OS
- Familiarity with J2EE and J2ME

Interested applicants may send their resumés to:

Human Resources Department
MITC Building
333 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner N. Garcia St.,
Makati City
or
hrd@mitc.com.ph

Sohbi Kohgei (Phils.), Inc.

Needs

(1) Japanese Interpreter

> at least level 2 proficiency
> willing to relocate in Lipa City, Batangas

Please submit your resumé to:

**HRD, Sohbi Kohgei (Phils.), Inc.
SEZ, LIMA Technology Center
Lipa City Batangas 4217
or Fax to: (043) 981-3829**

Improve your English communications skills and start your call center career

Contact Center Institute can help you acquire the skills through our training program to develop and reinforce your proficiency in the English Language.
Enroll now in our 5-day **American Speak** course for less than P1,500.00 and be part of our Career Assistance Program.
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**Contact Center Institute
Unit 1909 Prestige Tower, Emerald Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. Nos. 636-2713 / 636-2714**

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***Infrontier Philippines**, a company under the umbrella of the Infrontier Group, a regional information technology company specializing in providing secure, hosted business solutions and services specifically developed for the Asian marketplace, has immediate openings for the following positions:*

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER – To Cover Logistics and Distribution Industries

Profile:

- *Preferably Male (28 years or above of age)*
- *With a degree in Business Administration or a related course*
- *With at least two years experience in selling solutions such as ERP and Warehouse Management System*
- *Adept at generating solutions proposals with good presentation and demonstration skills*
- *Proficient in oral and written communications*
- *Preferably with experience in solutions consulting*
- *With good interpersonal and organizational skills*

BUSINESS ANALYSTS / APPLICATIONS CONSULTANTS

Profile:

- *Male or female, preferably 30 years or above of age*
- *Experienced in Business Process Analysis*
- *With a degree in a business course (CS/Acctg/BM)*
- *Accounting background, preferably in manufacturing*
- *Proficient in oral and written communications*
- *Knowledgeable in Unix and SQL*
- *Willing to travel to local and foreign site installations*

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR

Profile:

- *Male or female, preferably 25 years or above of age*
- *Proficient in Lotus Notes Administration*
- *Proficient in Unix / Linux Administration*
- *With 3 years work experience*
- *Experienced in LAN / PC maintenance*

PROGRAMMERS

Profile:

- *Male or female, preferably 25 years or above of age*
- *C++ programmer in a Unix environment*
- *With 3 years work experience*
- *Hardworking and deadline-oriented*
- *Willing to travel to local and foreign site installations*

*Interested parties for the above positions may email their applications and resumes to vssantos@infrontier.com or contact Rhea or Che at telephone numbers **(623) 895-1996** or **(632) 897-8594** to set appointments for interview.*

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Southeast Asia

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Republic of the Philippines
Office of the President
Metro Manila Development Authority
PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project — *Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAREMAR)*
Loan No. — *Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1746-PHI*

Description of Works : Construction and Development of a Linear Park along Brgy. Hulo in Mandaluyong City

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAREMAR and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the Contract for Brgy. Hulo Linear Park (Contract No. EPA-LPP-19)
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the following contract package:

Contract Package	Construction and Development of a Linear Park
Contract No.	EPA-LPP-19
Area	3,459 sq.m.
Location	Brgy. Hulo, Mandaluyong City
Contract Duration	180 calendar days

Project Description

Construction and development of a linear park/promenade which includes the following items of work: plant box, gazebo, trellis, railings, paintings, electrical works, plumbing works, landscaping, billboard/flagpole, marker, rehabilitation of "Tawiran ng Bayan"/ ferry station and waiting shed.

3. Interested Bidders shall secure the Bid Documents and submit bids as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue	Remarks
Securing of (a) Eligibility Checklist or (b) submission of Letter of Intent and purchase of complete set of Bid Documents upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 12, 500.00	From 14-18 Mar	8AM - 5PM	PRRC 2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City	Eligibility checklist is free of charge
Securing of additional eligibility information (if any) and inspection of Bidding Documents	From 14-18 Mar	8AM - 5PM		For those who secured only the Eligibility Checklist
a. Pre-Bid Conference	01 Apr	10AM	Mandaluyong City Hall	
b. Site Inspection	01 Apr	1PM	Coronado Street, Brgy. Hulo, Mandaluyong City	Right after Pre-Bid Conference
Deadline for submission of Bids	18 Apr	9AM	PRRC (same address)	Late bids (bids submitted after 9AM) shall not be accepted
Opening of Bids	18 Apr	10AM		Bids shall be opened in the presence of the bidders

4. The City of Mandaluyong shall be the implementing agency of the Contract.
5. Bidding (Eligibility Check/Prequalification, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contract) shall be conducted on the basis of local competitive bidding among interested Bidders from ADB eligible source countries as defined under the "*Guidelines for Procurement by the Asian Development Bank and its Borrowers*" pursuant to the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. No. 9184 and ADB Guidelines for the Procurement of Civil Works as standardized under the harmonized ADB-GOP Procurement of Works guidelines
6. PRRC-IABAC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to Contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **BINGLE H.B. GUTIERREZ**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Comission
2F, MWSS Engineering Bldg., Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos. 433-3444 and 433-344
E-mail Address: prrc@tri-isys.com
Fax No. 926-5234

(PDI - March 6 & 12, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION & COMMUNICATIONS
LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE
East Avenue, Quezon City
E-mail Address: ltombox@lto.gov.ph • Website: www.lto.gov.ph

MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 572-2005

21 February 2005

TO : **All Regional Directors/Assistant Regional Directors, Directors of the Law Enforcement Service/Traffic Adjudication Service; Chief, LTO-CO, Field Enforcement Division and Chiefs of the Regional Operations Divisions; All Hearing Officers, All Law Enforcement Officers, Deputized Agents, and Other Personnel Concerned.**

SUBJECT : **SUPPLEMENT PROVISIONS TO MC 544-2004, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS GUIDELINES IN THE ADJUDICATION OF APPREHENSION CASES IN ALL LTO OFFICES.**

It has been observed that several violations of land transportation laws, rules and regulations which involve and entail criminal offenses remain unabated and prevalent because the offending parties are not properly prosecuted.

To address the situation, and in relation to Rule IX Section 3(b) of Memorandum Circular 544-2004, hereunder are guidelines to supplement the implementing rules and regulations in the adjudication of violations of land transportation laws, rules and regulations.

Section 1 - SCOPE:

These rules shall include but NOT limited to the following violations:

a. *Defaced/Tampered motor vehicles engines, engine blocks and chassis;*
b. *Fake, tampered, spurious or misrepresentation of Certificate of Registration (CR), Official Receipt of Registration (OR), Certificate of Public Convenience of public utility motor vehicles (CPC) or any document relative to registration or franchise of motor vehicles;*
c. *Pertinent provisions of RA no. 6539 otherwise known as "Anti-Carnapping Act of 1972," and its amendments; and,*
d. *Pertinent provisions of the Revised Penal Code and the Anti-Fencing Law.*

Section 2 - PROCEDURE IN ADJUDICATION

a. *The guidelines provided under MC 544-2004 shall be strictly observed.*
b. *The Traffic Adjudication Service (TAS), Central Office or the Regional Director of Regional Offices or their Authorized Representative shall resolve the administrative aspect of apprehension cases.*
c. *All resolution of apprehension cases which involve any of the violations mentioned in Section I hereof shall be immediately forwarded to the Office of the Assistant Secretary or to the concerned Regional Director for review and, if circumstances warrant, thereafter coordinate with the proper authorities for the prosecution of the criminal aspect of the case reviewed.*
d. *A confiscated or impounded item/object, relative to the above-mentioned covered apprehension cases, shall not be released without prior approval from the Office of the Assistant Secretary or of the Regional Director concerned, as the case may be.*

Section 3 - SANCTION

Any violation of this Circular shall subject any erring LTO official or employee to administrative and/or criminal sanctions

Section 4 - REPEALING CLAUSE

All orders, memoranda or circulars inconsistent with the provisions of this memorandum circular are hereby superseded and modified accordingly.

Section 5 - EFFECTIVITY

This Memorandum Circular shall take effect immediately after compliance with the required notice and publication

For strict compliance.

(Sgd.) **ANNELI R. LONTOC**
Assistant Secretary

(PDI - March 6, 2005)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
REGIONAL OFFICE NO. VIII
PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel Nos (053-323-3075 323-3084) • Fax No 053-323-3061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA, REGION VIII

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains cargo handling service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Region VIII for the Calendar Year 2005 in the following provinces with their Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):

PROVINCE	LOCATION OF WAREHOUSE	EST. VOLUME TO BE HANDLED (BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
N. Leyte	Port Area Whse-Tacloban	120,200	P 374,170.00
	Alangalang Whse-Alangalang	389,500	1,393,760.00
	Ormoc Whse-Ormoc City	92,200	292,020.00
So. Leyte	Maasin Whse	114,600	357,740.00
	Baybay Whse	41,400	129,890.00
	Hilongos Whse	2,200	8,370.00
Biliran	Naval Whse	161,200	517,080.00
W. Samar	Catbalogan Whse	294,200	915,120.00
	Calbayog Whse	100,000	311,550.00
N. Samar	Bobon Whse	161,000	508,400.00
	Rawis Whse	120,000	381,300.00
	Catubig Whse	77,300	269,390.00
	Gamay Whse	29,000	89,900.00
E. Samar	Hindang Whse	225,000	701,530.00
	Oras Whse	57,000	178,250.00
	Guiuan Whse	154,800	481,430.00
TOTAL			P 6,909,900.00

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of Three Thousand Pesos Only (P3,000.00)

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	March 9-18, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	NFA-Reg'l Office 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	March 21, 2005	5:00 PM	NFA-Reg'l Office 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Issuance of Certificate of Registration/Notice of Eligibility	March 28, 2005	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	NFA-Reg'l Office 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Pre-Bidding Conference	March 31, 2005	2:00 PM	Conference Rm. NFA R.O. 8, Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Submission and Opening of Bids	April 12, 2005	9:30 AM	Conference Rm. NFA R.O. 8, Pawing, Palo, Leyte

A special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective Bidder Owner (for sole proprietorship and/or Resolution from the Board authorizing their Representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the Owner/Corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the Pre-Bidding Conference and during the Opening of the Bids shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids thereof, to waive any formalities or defects found therein, or to accept such bids or award to any Contractor whose Bid is considered most advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the government

(Sgd.) **ANTONIO J. ADORABLE**
Asst. Regional Manager/Chairman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI-March 6 & 12 2005)

A Multinational Company is in need of a **LAWYER** with the following requirements:

- With at least two (2) years experience in litigation and corporate practice in a reputable law office
- A team player and fast learner, flexible and of solid integrity
- With excellent oral communication skills and high proficiency in written English
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Computer literate

Kindly attach Copies of Sample Pleadings or Opinions.

Interested applicants may send their application letter and resume to
P.O. Box 1556 Makati Central Post Office and
P.O. Box 4890 Makati Central Post Office.

CALL POEA

24-HOUR

722-1144 or

HYUNDAI

A dealer of Hyundai cars is in urgent need of the following:

HR Officer

Psychology Graduate; At least 2-3 years experience in HR functions preferably as a generalist; Computer literate

Billing Clerk / Cashier

Accounting Graduate; At least 1-2 years experience in general accounting; Computer literate

Marketing Consultants

Graduate of any 4 year course; At least 1-2 years experience sales background; Knows how to drive with a professional license; Willing to work on commission basis only; With pleasing personality

Vehicle Sales Manager

Graduate of any 4 year course; At least 3-4 years experience in sales, in a supervisory / managerial position preferably in the automotive industry or customer service industry; With Professional driver's license; Excellent communication skills; Computer literate

Marketing Services Assistant / Officer

Graduate of any 4 year course preferably Mass Communication, Advertising or Marketing; At least 2-3 years experience in graphic design and lay-out; Computer literate and excellent in Power Point, Photoshop, Pagemaker; With professional driver's license; Excellent communication skills

Interested applicants may send their application letter, resumé and 1x1 ID picture to:

Hyundai Makati
2307 Pasong Tamo Extension,
Makati City
Fax: 812-1531

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Division of Zamboanga Sibugay
Third Elementary Education Project
Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay

March 6, 2005

Invitation for Bids

Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Storey Division Office Building (Funded by GOP and World Bank Loan No. 4108PH)

To All Eligible Bidders

The GOP has received a loan from the World Bank toward the financing of Third Elementary Education Project, and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract.

The Department of Education now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Storey Division Office Building of Zamboanga Sibugay. Completion of the works is required in 180 Calendar Days.

The procurement will be conducted in accordance with the applicable version of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders at the following address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 3,500 starting on March 9, 2005.

Department of Education
Division of Zamboanga Sibugay
Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of two and a half percent (2.5%) of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education on or before 10:00 AM on April 5, 2005 at same address as above at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

A pre-bid conference will be held on March 18, 2005 at 2:00 PM at VIP Hotel, Don Apolinar Velez Street, Cagayan de Oro City to respond to prospective Bidder's questions regarding any matter contained in the Bidding Documents.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **VICTORINA G. PEREZ**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 6, 2005)

RAMCAR TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

URGENTLY NEEDS THE FOLLOWING:

ASSISTANT MOULDMAKERS

Graduate of Technical / Vocational course
With 3-5 years experience in Moldmaking or Machine Shop

MACHINISTS

Technical / Vocational course graduate
With at least 2 years experience in Machine Shop Operation

MACHINE ASSEMBLERS

Technical Course Graduate
With minimum of 5 years experience as Machine Assembler

CNC OPERATORS

Graduate of Technical course
Must have basic knowledge in CNC Machine Operation

AUTOCAD DESIGNERS

Graduate of Mechanical Engineering
With expertise in AUTOCAD or any equivalent software design
Experience in Machine or Mold Design
for Plastic is an advantage.

REF and AIRCON TECHNICIANS

Graduate of Ref and Aircon Technology or
With extensive experience in Ref and Aircon repair &
maintenance including electrical wiring.

WELDERS

Graduate of Welding Technology or any Technical Course
Must have at least 2 years work experience in TIG Welding

Note: Preference for Male applicants, 21-35 years old

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO APPLY
PERSONALLY WITH THEIR RESUMÉ
AND 2X2 I.D. PICTURE TO:

THE CORPORATE RECRUITMENT SECTION
(BATTERY GROUP)
RAMCAR CENTER
80-82 Roces Avenue, Diliman, Q.C.
Tel. No. 4121779

PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY
PORT DISTRICT OFFICE OF VISAYAS
CIP COMPLEX, SERGIO OSMEÑA BLVD. NORTH RECLAMATION AREA, CEBU CITY, PHILIPPINES
TEL. NO. (032) 2323401-04, FAX NO. (032) 2321990, ppavs4@globelines.com.ph

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Philippine Ports Authority invites all interested parties to pre-qualify for the operations of cargo handling services at the Port of Danao, under the jurisdiction of the Port Management Office (PMO) Pulupandan.

Copies of the pre-qualification documents may be secured from the PBAC Secretariat, PMO-Pulupandan upon submission of an Official Letter of Intent and payment of ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1,000.00) Pesos, which is non-refundable starting March 7-18, 2005.

Duly accomplished pre-qualification documents shall be addressed to

The Port Manager
Philippine Ports Authority
Port Management Office-Pulupandan
BREDCO Port 2, Reclamation Area
Bacolod City
Tel. # (034) 435-0415 ; 435-3839

Following the schedules/deadlines below

Deadline for submission of Pre-qualification Documents	March 23, 2005
Dropping/Submission of Bid Documents	April 14, 2005

The Pre-qualified Bidders shall be duly notified in writing of the schedule and specific time for the following:

1 Pre-Bid Conference
2 Opening of Bids

The PPA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defects therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Authority.

(Sgd.) RAUL T. SANTOS
Port District Manager
PBAC - Chairman

(PDI - Feb. 27 & March 6, 2005)

LEYTE V ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
P.O. Box 162, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City
Tel. Nos. (053) 561-4111 / 255-7211 Telefax (053) 561-4075

INVITATION TO BID

The Leyte V Electric Cooperative, Inc. (LEYECO V), Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte, invites all eligible suppliers to submit bids for the supply of Line Materials, Hardware and Equipment for the following line expansion projects funded under NEA Subsidy 2004 for 4th Leyte District:

1. Zone 5, Brgy. Talisayan, Albuera
2. Purok 7, Brgy. Concepcion, Ormoc City
3. GK-Rotary, Brgy. Tambulilid, Ormoc City
4. Purok II, Pangpang, Brgy. San Juan, Ormoc City
5. Canduwang, Brgy. Cabaliwan, Merida

Bid documents shall be issued to interested bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Five Hundred Pesos Only (P500.00) starting March 11, 2005.

Pre-bid conference will be held on March 17 at 9 o'clock in the morning at LEYECO V Boardroom, Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City.

Sealed bids will be received by the Pre-bids and Awards Committee (PBAC), at LEYECO V Main Office in Brgy. San Pablo, Ormoc City, Leyte on March 31, 2005 at 1:30 in the afternoon, at which time and place said proposals will be opened and read in the presence of bidders or their authorized representatives.

LEYECO V reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, to waive any minor defects or informalities therein and to accept any or all offers or proposals as may be considered most responsive and advantageous to the Cooperative. It assumes no obligation whatsoever for any expenses or loss that may be incurred by the bidder in the preparation of bids, nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) **JOVENAL R. ALESNA**
General Manager

(PDI – March 4, 6 & 7, 2005)

Do you know?...
There are about 5,000 establishments in the Graphic and Media industry? That seventy percent of them are based in Metro Manila?

ECEPRO
Training for Business

Do you want to learn:... how YOU as a Graphic Artist can survive the highly competitive business of DESIGN and PRINT?

Please call 899-9414 or 635-0302 to reserve a seat.
Strictly maximum of 30 delegates per session. Classes will be held at the HP Education Center, 34th Floor, Robinsons Summit Center Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

the graphic artist as the digital enthusiast

17 March, Thursday, [illegible] Delegate

Day 1
- Learn how to easily translate your creative inputs into a digital layout.
- Experience step by step hands-on computer training and easy-to-follow design process and variation.
- Know the techniques in producing attractive prints for your design studies.
- Learn the different specifications of indoor and outdoor media

the graphic artist as the art director

18 March, Fri [illegible] Delegate

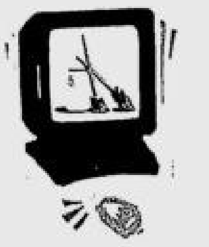
Day 2
- Learn how to retouch and enhance your visuals, overlay on backgrounds, do special effects, and other helpful tips.
- Clean up your layout, learn the many trends and options to attain the desired look. Develop your own samples
- Know when to request for photography and when to use stock image.
- Create the correct digital file specifications for digital and offset press
- Watch your own progress, hands-on computer trial until you achieve the best possible printing output

the graphic artist as the entrepreneur

19 March, Saturday [illegible] Delegate

Day 3
- Learn the different creative avenues for the business-minded graphic designer. Develop your line of expertise, create your portfolio
- Set up yourself and your work area ready for business. Professionalism as a freelance designer takes some practice!
- Know about the copyright and related rights in the Philippines.
- Learn how to explore possible suppliers as potential business partners
- Learn how to market yourself and your work; where to look for the market.
- Learn how to develop your own marketing tools and client database.

ECEPRO
Griffin Center, 210 Nicanor Garcia
Bel-Air Village, Makati City
E-mail us at [illegible]



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
Division of Agusan del Sur
Third Elementary Education Project
Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

March 6, 2005

Invitation for Bids

Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Storey Division Office Building (Funded by GOP and World Bank Loan No. 4108PH)

To All Eligible Bidders

The GOP has received a loan from the World Bank toward the financing of Third Elementary Education Project, and it intends to apply part or the whole of the proceeds of this loan, together with the GOP counterpart funds, to payments under the contract.

The Department of Education now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the Construction of One (1) Unit – Two (2) Storey Division Office Building of Agusan del Sur. Completion of the works is required in 180 Calendar Days.

The procurement will be conducted in accordance with the applicable version of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested Bidders at the following address and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Php 3,500 starting on March 9, 2005.

Department of Education
Division of Agusan del Sur
Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur

Bids shall be valid for a period of ninety (90) days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security in the amount of two and a half percent (2.5%) of total bid price, and shall be delivered to the Bids and Awards Committee, Department of Education on or before 10:00 AM on April 5, 2005 at same address as above at which time they will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

A pre-bid conference will be held on March 18, 2005 at 10:00 AM at VIP Hotel, Don Apolinar Velez Street, Cagayan de Oro City to respond to prospective Bidder's questions regarding any matter contained in the Bidding Documents.

The Department of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **VICTORIA P. CHAGAS**
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 6, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

March 4, 2005

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 2601 to 2610 of the TCCP, as amended, in relation to CMO 5-2003 dated March 17, 2003, and CMO 18-2003 dated 25 July 2003, there will be a Public Auction Sale to be conducted by this Port on **March 16, 2005** at 2:30 P.M. to be held at the 2nd Floor, MICP Building, North Harbor, Isla Puting Bato, Tondo, Manila, the herein described articles in lot. Said articles shall be available for viewing on **March 15, 2005**. In the event of a failed bidding, the second auction shall be conducted on the first business day following the first bidding.

Lot No. 086-04 DESTINY CABLE A.P. 04-05 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' Floor Price: Php3,050,000.00	1,525 Units COCO (MC-DIO & MC-KB10) Location: Security Warehouse 159
Lot No. 087-04 WISDOM IMPORT & EXPORT S.I. No. 00-112 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' Floor Price: Php3,508,800.00	860 boxes, 4 units/box Mini Water Suction Pump, 1/2 hp, 50 Hz, Made in Taiwan Location: ICTSI CY, Cont. No. PCIU-3354625
Lot No. 086-04 AMBER GRIS SOLUTIONS R.A. 7651 1st Advertisement 'As Is Where Is' Floor Price: Php150,850.00	34 Wooden Crates, 518 pcs. Light fixtures such as fluorescent pvc cover, light case, wood tops, desk top and other electrical light accessories. Total net weight-15,085 kgs. Location: ICTSI CY, Contr. No. 5038639

Basic Guidelines:
1. File the duly accomplished Registration Form (name, address, TIN and other relevant circumstances to be indicated).
2. Php2,000.00 Registration Fee (Non-Refundable)
3. PhP20,000.00 Cash Bond (Refundable)
4. The highest bidder shall be required to pay 50% of the bid price either in cash and/or Manager's Check immediately and the balance of 50% shall be paid within the next business day.
5. After the second failed bidding, a particular lot may be offered to all qualified bidders for negotiated sale, subject to compliance of the requirements under Section IV-J of CMO 5-2003
6. Payment by Cashier's/Manager's Checks to the BOC/MICP shall bear the following:
   a. Pay to the order of Land Bank of the Philippines - BOC MICP E.O.
   b. For credit of the Bureau of Customs.
   c. For the account of:

Bidder

For further details, please contact Mr. Isidro A. Pro, Chief, Auction & Cargo Disposal Division, MICP, Tel. No. 247-09-77

(Sgd.) Atty. **FELIPE A. BARTOLOME, CESO V**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI – March 6, 2005)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB NO.: 08-53-2004

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project hereunder:

Project : Contract of VIP Bar Services for Casino Filipino-Pavilion, Parañaque & Heritage
Manpower Requirement : 45
Approved Budget : Six Million Five Hundred Forty Nine Thousand Eight Hundred Twenty Seven & 40/100 (P 6,549,827.40)

Source of Funds : Internally Funded

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from February 22, 2005 to March 18, 2005** at the BAC Secretariat Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Three Thousand Two Hundred Seventy Five Pesos (Php 3,275.00).*** In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the project.

Pre-Bid Conference : March 8, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Submission of Bids : March 21, 2005 (2:00 pm)
Opening of Bids : March 21, 2005 (2:00 pm onwards)

PAGCOR has the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (*R.A. 9184, Sec. 41*).

Please address all communications to the BAC Secretariat Unit, Procurement & Property Department.

(Sgd) **RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO**
Chairperson, BAC 4

(PDI - Feb. 27 & March 6, 2005)

Kagawaran ng Ugnayang Panlabas
Department of Foreign Affairs

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
2330 Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City, Metro Manila
Bids and Awards Committee

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Foreign Affairs-Bids and Awards Committee (DFA-BAC) is inviting interested bidders to apply for eligibility and bid for the:

A. **JANITORIAL SERVICE CONTRACT**
B. **PEST CONTROL SERVICE CONTRACT**
C. **CONTRACT FOR THE LEASE OF PHOTOCOPYING MACHINES**
D. **SECURITY SERVICE CONTRACT (Home and Regional Offices)**

Interested bidders may acquire bid documents from 07 to 23 March 2005, at the BAC Secretariat, Office of the Undersecretary for Administration, 12th Floor, DFA Bldg., 2330 Roxas Blvd., Pasay City, (tel. nos. 834-4066 and fax nos. 831-95-84) upon submission of Letter of Intent and payment of a **non-refundable fee** of One Thousand Pesos (Php1,000.00) to the **Cashier's Office,** Office of Fiscal Management, 4th Floor, DFA Building, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City. Applications for eligibility and bid evaluation shall use the "PASS/FAIL" criteria.

ACTIVITY	JANITORIAL	SECURITY	PHOTOCOPIER	PEST CONTROL
Pre-bid Conference	30 Mar 2005	31 Mar 2005	30 Mar 2005	31 Mar 2005
Last Day of Submission of Bid Requirements	12 Apr 2005 (1:30 pm)	13 Apr 2005 (1:30 pm)	12 Apr 2005 (1:30 pm)	13 Apr 2005 (1:30 pm)
Opening of Eligibility Requirements, Technical and Financial Proposals	12 Apr 2005 (2:30 pm)	13 Apr 2005 (2:30 pm)	12 Apr 2005 (2:30 pm)	13 Apr 2005 (2:30 pm)

DFA-BAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reasons, and to waive any deficiencies and rquired formalities embodied therein. DFA-BAC assumes no obligations whatsoever to offset the expenses and/or losses the bidder may have incurred in the preparation of the bids. DFA-BAC further reserves the right to declare a failure of bid, and/or not to award the contract, and makes no assurances that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) **FRANKLIN M. EBDALIN**
Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs
Chairman, DFA-BAC

(PDI - March 06 & 13, 2005)

Department of Transportation and Communications
CIVIL AERONAUTICS BOARD
OLD MIA ROAD, PASAY CITY,
METRO MANILA

A Century of bringing the Filipinos closer together through better transportation and communications

IN RE : Petition for Issuance of Authority to Operate Non-Scheduled International Air Transportation Services)
TRANSGLOBAL AIRWAYS, CORP.
Petitioner)
CAB CASE NO. 26695
x---x

NOTICE OF HEARING

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 776, as amended, notice is hereby given that **TRANSGLOBAL AIRWAYS, CORPORATION** has filed with the Civil Aeronautics Board a Petition for Issuance of Authority to Operate Non Scheduled International Air Transportation Services docketed as CAB Case No. 26695. The initial hearing on the above entitled case will be held on **28 March 2005 at 2:00 P.M.** in the CAB Conference Room of the Civil Aeronautics Board, Old MIA Road, Pasay City, before the undersigned Hearing Officer, at which hearing the petitioner shall present evidence.

The petitioner ishereby required to have this Notice of Hearing served upon Philippine Airlines, Inc. Cebu Pacific Air, Air Philippines Corporation, Asian Spirit, SEAIR, Inc. and Interisland Resorts and Services, Inc. either by personal service or by registered mail with return card at least three (3) days before the scheduled hearing.

Parties opposed to the granting of the petition must file their written opposition on or before the date of the hearing, furnishing a copy of the same to the petitioner, and appear at the hearing with such evidence as may be prepair under the premises. Failure on the part of any interested party to file its opposition on time and appear at the hearing shall be construed as a waiver of its right to be heard and the Civil Aeronautics Board shall proceed to hear and decide this petition on its merit.

Let a copy of this Notice be posted at the CAB Bulletin Board beginning today.

03 March 2005
Pasay City, Philippines

(Sgd.) **MANUEL A. MORENTE, JR.**
Chief, Legal & Enforcement Division

(PDI – March 6, 13 & 20, 2005)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA cor. Mapagmahal St.,
Diliman, Quezon City

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DILG through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites service contractors to apply for eligibility and to Bid for hereunder project:

Name of Project	Provision of Janitorial & Sanitation Services for the Calendar Year 2005 for the Department of the Interior and Local Government located at A. Francisco Gold Condominium II, EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City.
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 4,924,297.00
Contract Duration	May 1 – December 31, 2005

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project for at least 5 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have key personnel and equipment (owned, leased or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The Eligibility Check/ Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

Criteria for the eligibility check of the prospective bidders, examination and evaluation of Bids and post-qualification and all matters relevant to this procurement shall be in accordance with Republic Act No. 9184 (The Government Procurement Reform Act) and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Issuance of Bid Documents – February 28 - March 11, 2005
Pre-Bid Conference – March 15, 2005
Submission / Opening / Evaluation of Bids – March 30, 2005
Post qualification – April 6, 2005
Notice of Award – April 26, 2005

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of ***Two Thousand Five Hundred, Php 2,500.00*** to the DILG Cashier.

The complete set of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Docs, may be obtained at the (Bids and Awards Committee - Secretariat) c/o Ms. Dita Gotis, BAC Secretariat Head (Tel. No. 925-03-78). Eligibility Documents, technical and financial proposals shall be placed in separate and marked sealed envelope addressed to USEC Melchor P. Rosales, Bids and Awards Committee Chairman, c/o the BAC-Secretariat and dropped in the bid box located at ***OSEC Conference Room, 10th Floor A. Francisco Gold Condo, II EDSA corner Mapagmahal St., Diliman, Quezon City.*** Deadline of submission and receipt of Technical and Financial requirements shall be on ***March 30, 2005, Wednesday at the OSEC Conference Room, 10th Floor AFGC II, EDSA corner Mapagmahal Street, Diliman, Quezon City.***

The DILG reserves the right to reject any or all bids or offers which it may consider to be disadvantageous and not beneficial to DILG or to waive any defect or informality therein. Further, the DILG assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) **MELCHOR P. ROSALES**
USEC for Administration

(PDI – February 27 & March 6, 2005)

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. 02-052-05

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites duly licensed security agencies to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

BUDGET FOR THE SECURITY SERVICES OF LRT LINE 1 & 2 SYSTEMS

LINE 1 AREA		BUDGET	CONTRACT PERIOD
I Depot	PHP	85,039,623.40	12 MONTHS
II Revenue Line		25,073,539.92	12 MONTHS
GRAND TOTAL	PHP	110,113,163.32	

LINE 2 AREA		BUDGET	CONTRACT PERIOD
I Depot	PHP	57,160,657.44	12 MONTHS
II Revenue Line		10,871,045.28	12 MONTHS
GRAND TOTAL	PHP	68,031,702.72	

The Bid Document forms may be secured from the LRTA Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Bldg., LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, Metro Manila, during regular office hours from March 7 to 10, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) per areas to be served as indicated (Line 1, AREA I, II, Line 2 AREA I, II).

Site inspection will be held on March 11, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. For the purpose of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on March 29, 2005 at the Admin Building Conference Room 10:30 a.m. The BAC Secretariat shall received sealed bids not later than April 7, 2005, 9:00 A.M. and then shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) **LT COL CESAR B CHAVEZ (GSC) MNSA**
Deputy Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 6, 2005)

LIGHT
RAIL
TRANSIT
AUTHORITY

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No. 02-051-05

The Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

BUDGET FOR THE JANITORIAL SERVICES OF LRT LINE 1 & 2 SYSTEMS

LINE 1 AREA		BUDGET	CONTRACT PERIOD
I Depot	PHP	7,847,769.60	12 MONTHS
II Revenue Line		17,310,600.00	12 MONTHS
III LRV's		8,650,705.00	12 MONTHS
GRAND TOTAL	PHP	33,809,074.60	

LINE 2 AREA		BUDGET	CONTRACT PERIOD
I Depot & LRV's	PHP	7,561,721.28	12 MONTHS
II Revenue Line		19,804,500.00	12 MONTHS
GRAND TOTAL	PHP	27,366,221.28	

The Bid Document forms may be secured from the LRTA Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the Ground Floor, Administration Bldg., LRTA Compound, Aurora Blvd., Pasay City, Metro Manila, during regular office hours from March 7 to 10, 2005 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) per areas to be served as indicated (Line 1, AREA I, II, III, Line 2 AREA I, II).

Site inspection will be held on March 11, 2005 at 10:00 A.M. For the purpose of clarifying issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on March 29, 2005 at the Admin Building Conference Room 10:30 a.m. The BAC Secretariat shall received sealed bids not later than **April 7, 2005, 9:00 A.M.** and then shall be publicly opened immediately thereafter.

LRTA reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, without assuming any obligation whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of its bids, and will entertain only such bid/s established to be the most advantageous to the LRTA.

(Sgd.) **LT COL CESAR B CHAVEZ (GSC) MNSA**
Deputy Administrator
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-March 6, 2005)

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OBITUARIES

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005

RATE
P245 per column centimeter
(All prices exclusive of E-VAT)

DEADLINE
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

**We, The RAMCAR Group of Companies,
express our sincerest condolences to the family and friends
of our beloved OEM Sales Manager…**

Mr. LEONARDO A. HALCON

January 31, 1940 – March 4, 2005

**"You will remain forever in our hearts,
THANK YOU FOR THE MEMORIES SIR LEO…"**

We request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie at the :
LOYOLA MEMORIAL PARK CHAPEL
(Dr. A. Santos Avenue, Sucat, Parañaque City)
Requiem mass is on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, at 9:00 A.M., with
Interment to follow at the **MANILA MEMORIAL PARK**, 10 A.M.

**"My soul finds rest in God alone; my salvation comes from Him.
He alone is my rock and my salvation; He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."**
(Psalm 62:1-2)

Guillermo "Willie" Hernandez, Jr.

December 12, 1939 – February 11, 2005
Palo Alto, California USA

His loving wife **Ana**, children **Nikki**, **Maurice** and **Gabbi**, sisters **Diana**, **Ramona**, **Herminia**, brother **Inky**, relatives and friends deeply mourn his passing.

A memorial service will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2005, 3:00 p.m. at Christ Commission Fellowship, 2/F St. Francis Square Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

SEGUNDA DACANAY BALANGUE

March 29, 1924 – February 26, 2005

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us, offered Masses and prayers, sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy, gave donations, visited and kept vigil, attended the funeral rites and memorial services, and who in countless ways helped and comforted us during our moments of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for her eternal repose in heaven.

Special thanks to Dr. De la Vega of PGH, Dr. R. Ozaeta and their team of doctors and nurses of Makati Medical Center ICU.

*"God be with you on your journey home.
We will miss you dearly."*

ANTONIO LEDESMA MAPA, SR.

December 13, 1938 – March 3, 2005

His loving wife **Marilyn Trinidad-Mapa**

His children
Tonton and **Mylene**;
Rina and **Daniel Shelton**;
Nikko and **Shan**;
Lisa and **Manny Sator**;
Miel and **Nick Sadhwani**,

His grandchildren
Nacho, **Toby**, **Javi**, **Pepi**, and **Marie**;
Nicholas, **Michael**, and **Alec**;
Nina;
Vico, **Chino**, and **Mica**,

His brothers, sisters, relatives, and friends rejoice in his return to his heavenly Father.

His remains lie in state at the La Funeraria Paz Chapels (inside Manila Memorial Park) in Sucat, Parañaque.

The Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, 6 March 2005 at the La Funeraria Paz Chapels, and the cremation will follow at 6:00 p.m.

DR. TOMAS V. SARANGAY

December 21, 1924 – February 25, 2005
of Cabagan, Isabela passed away peacefully in Toronto Canada

His bereaved loving wife, **LOLITA GUZMAN SARANGAY**, beloved children, **MYRNA** and **JUDGE LEONARDO L. LEONIDA**, **ALBERTO** and **BETH**, **TOMAS, JR.**, and **MASAYO**, **MARYROSE** and **ENGR. ISIDORO DADIVAS, JR.**, **EDMUND** and **JINKY**, his very dear grandchildren, **DON** and **FRANCES**, **SHERRY MAE**, **MON** and **ROSE**, **MICHELLE**, **LIZELLE**, **LESTER MARK**, **LANCE MARION**, **LARA MYRIELLE**, **AARON BOAZ**, **AINA BETTINA**, **ALBY**, **SARKEE**, **KENJI**, **MAKI**, **KARL**, **KURT**, **MARGUERITE**, **EJ** and **SEAN**, dear great grandchildren, **FAYE**, **DANI**, **LEONARDO III**, **MONICA**, **SEAN & STACY**, only dear surviving brother, **ROBERTO V. SARANGAY**, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains will arrive from Canada on March 7, 2005 at ten o'clock a.m. and will lie in state until March 9 at 9:00 a.m. at St. Alphonsus of Liguori Chapel, St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Center, Magallanes Village, Makati City after which his body will be flown to Cabagan, Isabela to lie in state there until his interment on March 12, 2005.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...
INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
— John 3:16

We Lovingly Remember

JUSTICE CARMELINO G. ALVENDIA

On his
23rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
On March 6, 2005

Holy Mass will be offered at the
Manila Memorial Park Plaza of Peace,
Sucat Parañaque on
March 6, 2005 at 9:00 a.m.

We, his family and friends, request the kind reader to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.

We, the family of the late

Venido C. Atienza

June 5, 1953 - February 22, 2005

thank you for being with us in your thoughts and prayers and for your kind expressions of sympathy during this time of bereavement. May God grant you abundant blessings.

> *"Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*
> *Psalms 23:6*

Mila, Ria, Toby
& Valyn

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MAKATI	:	**892-5578; 811-4361; 811-4370**
KALAW	:	**528-0213; 527-3342**
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"I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."
John 14:6

AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION PHILIPPINES (AAP)
The National Auto Club

The National Auto Club

Our Dearly Beloved President

ANTONIO L. MAPA

Peacefully joined our Creator
on March 3, 2005 at the age of 66.

The whole AAP Family

The Board of Directors
All officers and staff

Express their most heartfelt condolences to his family and offer their prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz,
Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

There will be a Mass on Sunday, March 6, 2005
at 2pm preceeding the cremation.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... **INQUIRER OBITUARIES**

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate; ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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CLASSIFIEDS

Province of Aklan
Republic of the Philippines
Bids and Awards Committee

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Local Government and Finance Development Project

Supply, Delivery, Placing, and Commissioning / Testing of Building Equipment for the Expansion, Rehabilitation and Upgrading of the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital to a Second Level Referral (Tertiary Non-Teaching) Hospital

Loan No. 4446 PH

1. The **Government of the Philippines** has received a loan from the International Bank of Reconstruction and Development in various currencies towards the cost of the **Local Government Finance and Development Projects.** It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Supply, Delivery, Placing, and Commissioning / Testing of Building Equipment for the Expansion, Rehabilitation and Upgrading of the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital to a Second Level Referral (Tertiary Non-Teaching) Hospital.

2. The Province of Aklan now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Purchase of Building Equipment for the supply, delivery, placing and commissioning / testing of any or all of the following building equipment for the Expansion, Rehabilitation and Upgrading of the Dr. Rafael S. Tumbokon Memorial Hospital to a Second Level Referral (Tertiary Non-Teaching) Hospital.

Lot 1 Generator Sets 1. 2 units 270 KVA generator sets with synchronizing panel	**Lot 3** Aircon Units 5. 3 units 3TNR Package Type Air Conditioning Unit (ACU) 6. 12 units 2 HP ACU window type 7. 50 units 1.5 HP ACU window type 8. 5 units 1.0 HP ACU window type 9. 5 units 1.5 HP ACU split type
Lot 2 Primary Metering 2. 3 units 70:1 15KV potential transformer 3. 3 units 15:5 15KV current transformer 4. 3 units 250 KVA transformer	

3. Bidding will be conducted through the national competitive bidding procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines. Bids will be evaluated per lot and winning bids will be awarded to the lowest eligible and responsive bid per lot.
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at Sub-Project Management Office, DRSTM Hospital Site, Mabini St., Kalibo, Aklan, Tel. No.: 036-268-9781.
5. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders upon submission of a written application to the address: Sub-Project Management Office, DRSTM Hospital Site, Mabini St., Kalibo, Aklan and upon payment to the Provincial Treasurer's Office of a nonrefundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (P2,500.00). The method of payment will be in the form of cash or cashier's cheque.
6. Bids must be delivered to Provincial Governor's Office, Gov. Roberto Q. Garcia, Sr. Building (former Provincial Guesthouse), Capitol Site, Kalibo, Aklan on or before 9:00 A.M., 21 April 2005. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of five (5) percent of the total bid price in a form of cash, certified check, bank guarantee, letter of credit or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the Conference Room, Provincial Governor's Office, Gov. Roberto Q. Garcia, Sr. Building (former Provincial Guesthouse), Capitol Site, Kalibo, Aklan at 9:00 A.M., 21 April 2005.

   Provincial Governor's Office
   Engr. Victory M. Fernandez
   Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
   Gov. Roberto Q. Garcia, Sr. Building (former Provincial Guesthouse), Capitol Site
   Kalibo, Aklan
   Tel. No.: 036-268-9781
   Telefax: 036-262-3132
   Email: aklanpgo@yahoo.com

7. A pre-bid conference will be held at the Conference Room, Gov. Roberto Q. Garcia, Sr. Building (former Provincial Guesthouse), Capitol Site, Kalibo, Aklan at 9:00 A.M., 07 April 2005.

(Sgd.) ENGR. VICTORY M. FERNANDEZ
Provincial Engineer
Chairman

(PDI - March 06, 2005)

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cut & clip

GALING PILIPINO MOVEMENT (GPM) is a non-profit, private sector initiative of citizens committed to recognize, affirm and propagate what is good and excellent about being PILIPINO to develop a culture of excellence and a commendable sense of national pride as a value-centered foundation for nation-building. ***Itaguyod natin ang Galing Pilipino!***

March 2005 Calendar of Events

Galing Housekeeping Seminar

8am to 5pm, Monday, March 7, 2005
I-PEX Training Center
Hotel Victoria de Malate, Manila

GPM's eco-agro tourism program, BISITA PILIPINAS, will enlist private homes, preferably ancestral houses, whose owners and caretakers are willing to participate in the development of a local bed & breakfast homestay program. Learn the techniques of quality housekeeping... find out how to make beds ala hotel style... know the proper use of cleaning aids... AND MORE! A well-kept house speaks of a well-run home.

Seminar Fee: P100.00 for GPM Members. P200.00 for non-members

GP Youth Kapihan

1pm to 4pm, Wednesday, March 9, 2005
Amado V. Hernandez Hall
Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) Sta. Mesa, Manila

Galing Pilipino Movement (GPM) believes that today's 18 to 30 year-olds will be the driving force that will significantly impact the current scenario to enable transformation into a Galing Generation

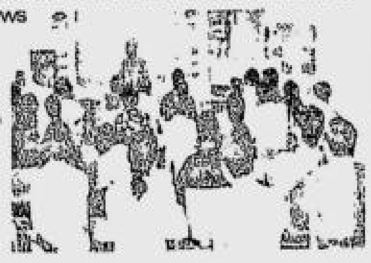
This month's forum on "Galing Estudyante" is hosted by GPM youth leaders from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP) as they endeavor to create their own GPM Chapter in the school. Invited "Galing Pilipino" role models will share what it takes to be students leaders.

Free Registration! Brunch courtesy of Chowking

GP Kapihan

8am to 11 am, Saturday, March 12, 2005
Session Hall, Sangguniang Panlungsod, Marikina City

GP Kapihan is a monthly breakfast forum that features good news and innovative and uncommon solutions to common problems as a counterpoint to pervading negativism and bad news syndrome.



This month's forum is hosted by Marikina City Government, where the first GPM Bisita Pilipinas site will be created. Bisita Pilipinas, a bed & breakfast trade development program, will offer visitors the opportunity to experience the unique and excellent cultural and historical traditions and warm hospitality of a community.

The forum likewise features "Galing Negosyo" where Sis. Ishang Lagasit, Founder of Susi Foundation, will share how they have developed a thriving business for farmers in Quezon.

Free Registration! *Brunch courtesy of Chowking*

Natural Farming Seminar

8am to 5pm, Friday, March 18, 2005
Chowking Pioneer, Mandaluyong City

BABUYAN NA HINDI AMOY BABOY! Innovative Galing Pilipino seminar conducted by Mr. Andry Lim Attend this seminar & find out how to raise pigs... ***WALANG HUGAS, WALANG LIGO, WALANG BAHO!*** Learn how to grow ***CHEMICAL-FREE FRUITS & VEGETABLES***. And know how to make concoctions using natural ingredients found in your backyard.

Seminar Fee: P500.00 for GPM members. P1,000.00 for non-members

Sponsored by:
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Chowking

For particulars call GPM Foundation Inc at (02)633.1089 or (02)631.3932 or log on to Www.galingpilipino.com

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Adrianse Group

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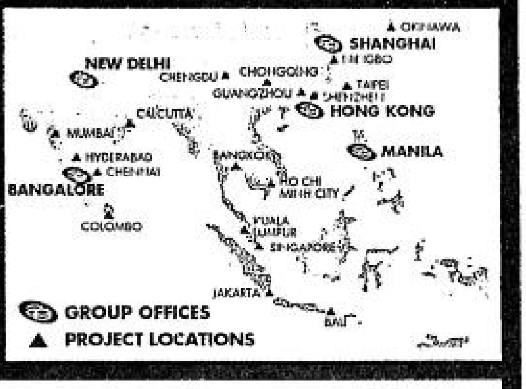

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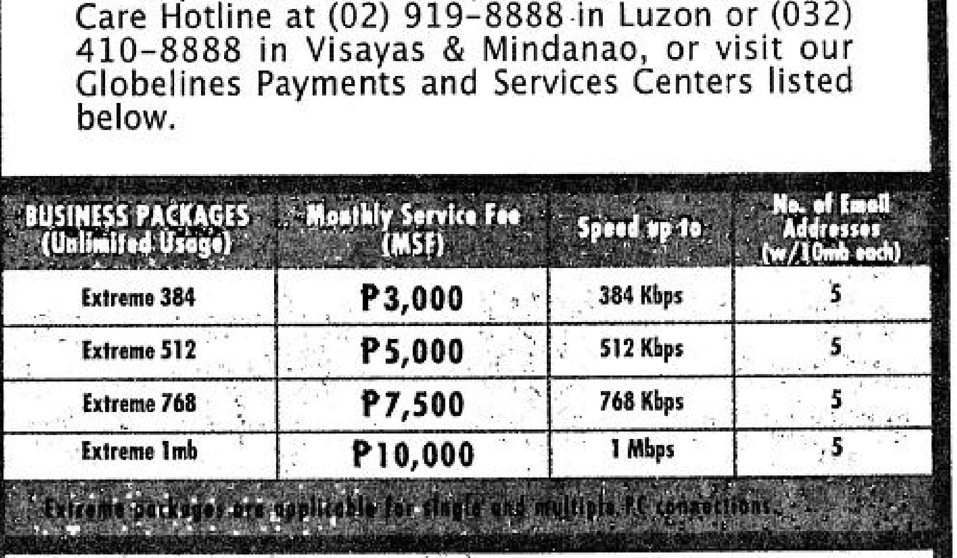

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Sunday LIFESTYLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005 C1

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

UNDATED photo of women in elaborately embroidered ternos

The terno in fighting form

By Cheche V. Moral

IT wasn't too long ago when activities and design competitions were held to foster renewed interest in the Philippine terno. Soon, the distinct butterfly sleeves of the traditional Filipina dress began reappearing in formal occasions and in chichi parties of the social set.

The terno was back in fashion.

At a recent lecture held at St. Scholastica's College, however, a paper was presented that attempted to look beyond the *terno* as a fashion article, and more into its role as a dress that

THE TERNO/ C2

THE HAUTE couture barong by the House of Pierre Cardin during the Marcos era sported stylized pointed cuffs.

"C'est si bon!", people say that in Serendra.

Serendra
An AYALA Community

SUBURBAN LIVING IN THE CITY

Paris in April, Rome in June, New York in October. Life has never been this good for Beth. As an executive consultant of a multinational company, she controls her own time. Her three grown children now have careers of their own. All of fifty-two summers long, she is finally free to live life on her own terms.

A famous traveller once said, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." When Beth came knocking on our door, that's exactly what she took. She wanted a small piece of heaven, we showed her all the swimming pools, badminton courts and gardens. She wanted a watering hole for her girlfriends and amigas, we gave her a selection of coffee shops and restaurants. She wanted suburban living without leaving her family in the city behind, we showed her Serendra's enviable location. She wanted beautiful Sunday mornings with her grandkids, we showed her Serendra's sprawling lawns. Finally, she wanted peace of mind, knowing her investment is safe and secure even while she's far and away. So we told her about the Ayala guarantee of 24/7 property management. That wherever she is around the globe, her home and its surroundings will be constantly maintained to ensure it stays as impressive as when she first bought it.

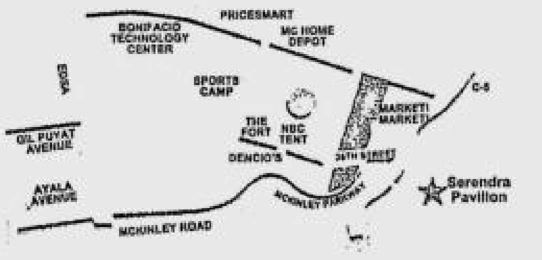
Because like every great traveller, Beth knows the feeling. There really is no place like home. "And", she adds, "no home quite like Serendra."

You're now dedicated to the proposition that you should spend more time living than making a living. For you, Serendra was fashioned to be a thriving self-contained community. Where you can enjoy all the things you relish doing like shopping, dining, and meeting old friends and new without leaving the sanctuary of home.

Here you can shop to your heart's delight at the retail promenade, an urban entertainment haven with antique galleries, specialty stores and restaurants that come from a fusion of cultures. Here you can spend lazy Sundays in the village coffee shop with your friends while your grandkid frolics in the gardens nearby. Here you can finally live it up like you always dreamed you would.

Set in the heart of Bonifacio Global City, Serendra has sprawling gardens, tree-lined walkways, wading pools, playgrounds, game rooms, multi-purpose courts, and charming residential units that marry European-inspired masterplanning and Filipino warmth and sensibility. It's near several prestigious schools, hospitals, and some of the world's best shopping as well. Where other residential properties force you to choose between accessibility and space, Serendra gives you both and more. All the perks of suburban living right at the heart of the metropolis.

Because you've lived long enough to know that Serendra is something you really want. Something you truly deserve.



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The terno in fighting form

A recent lecture looks beyond the national dress as a fashion item, and more as an important element in the struggle for women's suffrage

1929 MANILA Carnival Queen Pacita de los Reyes in her terno. Many of the early suffragists were beauty queens and, interestingly, they didn't dispute this label.

From page C1

played an important part in the women's suffrage movement.

The lecture, "Ang Tela, Ang Terno at Ang Boto" (Role of Clothing and Dress in the Suffrage Movement), was the first in a series being held by the NGO-GO National Network of the Feminist Centennial in the Philippines in the runup to the centennial celebration of the Philippine women's suffrage in August.

Dr. Mina Roces' paper, "Gender, Nation and Politics of Dress in 20th Century Philippines," also tackled how the barong Tagalog was linked to political agendas and political self-representations in Philippine politics—from the suffragists' era to the present.

Opposing identities

It was Roces' contention that, in Philippine history, the western dress and the Filipino dress represented opposing identities, "but whether what they represented is nationalist or not is not categorically predictable."

A Ph.D. graduate of the University of Michigan, Roces teaches at the School of History of the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, and her research interests include gender and power in 20th-century history, the history of Filipino feminism, the politics of dress.

THE "MAN of the Masses," President Ramon Magsaysay, wears the barong Tagalog in his inauguration to extol the Filipino *masa*.

According to Roces, the terno as we know it today evolved from the *baro't saya* of the 16th century, which also included the *tapis* wrapped around the waist as a mark of decency.

The *panuelo*, which was draped over the shoulders and doubled as a scarf, was later added by the Spaniards. This was also for purposes of decency as women in those days didn't have bras. The Spaniards further refashioned the dress by introducing a more elaborate skirt style. The dress was known as the Maria Clara.

MARIA Kalaw, one of the early suffragists, in her terno

PHOTOS REPRINTED FROM "THE BARONG TAGALOG THEN & NOW" AND "PHILIPPINE COSTUME"

The butterfly sleeves now seen in the modern terno made its appearance around the time of the American occupation. The sleeves, which used to be longer, became bigger and more tubular.

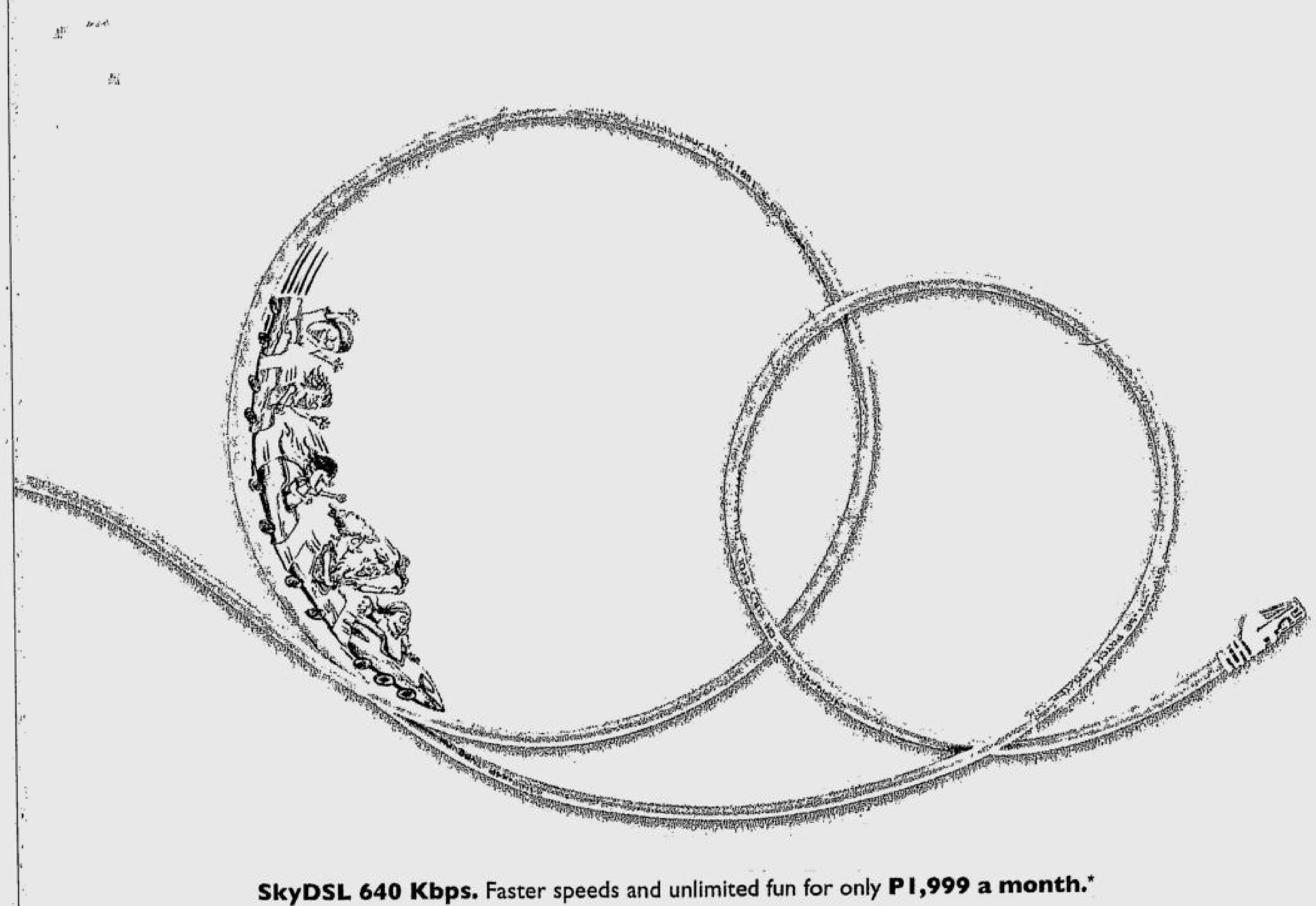
The one-piece and *panuelo*-less terno is what we know now as the modern version. Originally the top and skirt were not joined. The traditional terno was made to fit, and was worn by the elite class.

"The campaign for Filipino independence during the American colonial period raised different issues for men and women," Roces said. The early suffragists who fought in the revolution assumed they would be considered part of nation-building. But Filipino "men refused to share the place with women. [They] didn't want to include the women in this new nation."

Interestingly, the American colonizers supported suffragists. It became a predicament for the suffragists to lobby for a nationalist government because that same government would disenfranchise them as women.

At the time, Filipino men wore western suits, which didn't mean they weren't nationalists, Roces said. They represented political power and modernity. The women in their terno, meanwhile, repre-

THE TERNO/ C3



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The terno in fighting form

From page C2

sented the disenfranchised, colonized subjects.

Grand strategy

As Roces explained it, wearing the national dress was a strategy by the women to repackage the modern Filipina "by playing on men's nostalgia for the romanticized Filipino woman."

But the women deliberately avoided picking the Maria Clara dress because they rejected what it represented—the meek, submissive woman. "The suffragists said she (Maria Clara) was fiction."

The suffragists advocated western dress for work and school wear because the terno was deemed impractical for the local weather and active daily life. They, however, deliberately wore the national dress on official occasions, earning them the moniker "panuelo activists."

These women were university-educated, English-speaking, Americanized professionals, and they eventually succeeded not just in their demand for the right to vote, but also in changing the Spanish civil code that classified women alongside deaf, mutes and morons.

The changes also allowed them to have property and inheritances, exercise business rights without checking with their husbands, and enjoy maternity leave.

The Filipino dress became identified with the nationalist sentiment from post-independence until martial law. But it wasn't until 1953 that the barong was considered formal wear when, in an unprecedented move, President Ramon Magsaysay wore it to his inauguration. (Presidents Roxas to Quirino wore the *Amerikana* to their respective inaugurations.)

It was Magsaysay's way of extolling the *masa* as the elite wore western clothing, Roces said. And in a parallel move, First Lady Luz Magsaysay wore a Ramon Valera terno.

By this time, the look of the terno was also changing. The dilemma was whether to wear the *panuelo* or not. Some claimed it was itchy. Valera was said to have introduced the *panuelo*-less terno because it looked more western and more akin to the evening gown. It caused an uproar, and Roces said there was even a demand for a Senate resolution that would bring back the *panuelo*.

Different meanings

"The western dress and national dress took on different meanings at different times in Philippine history," said Roces. "During martial law the Marcoses became known as nationalists wearing the national dress." Marcos wore the national dress to show he was legitimate not only in the eyes of the Filipinos but also in the eyes of the world. "Fifteen years later, people who demanded his resignation rejected the Filipino dress he wore, and expressed their opposition by wearing western dress."

It is acknowledged, however, that while Magsaysay elevated the barong Tagalog to formal wear, it was Marcos who sought to popularize the barong as Filipino attire. It was he who first wore it for everyday occasions.

A less-formal, short-sleeved version of the barong was even introduced.

Marcos also sought to establish that the Filipino is as stylish as his western counterpart. In 1971, the barong underwent a haute-couture refashioning by the house of Pierre Cardin. The Cardin barong had new cuffs, and darts were added to make it more tapered (the traditional barong was loose-fitting). This was the most radical innovation to the barong until the 1980s.

Meanwhile, the modern terno became synonymous to First Lady Imelda Marcos.

Roces said Imelda Marcos wore the terno to her trial in New York, in spite of the weather, to represent the Filipino nation through the dress—the Filipino as a victim of the powerful West.

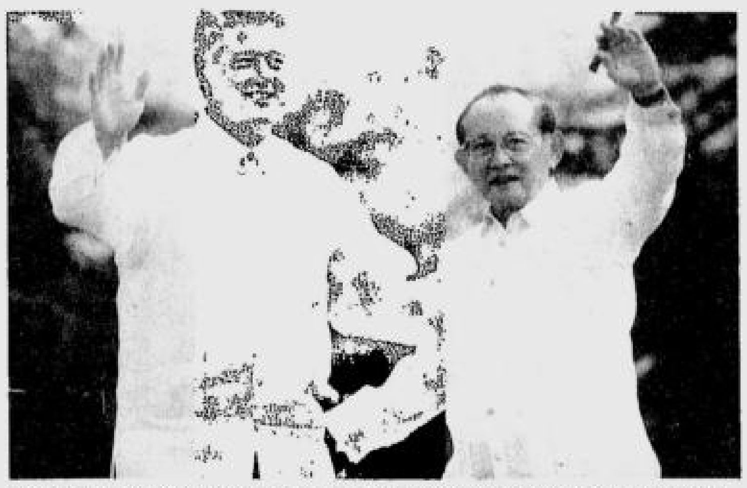
The former first lady was quoted as saying that since she couldn't wear the flag, she wore the terno. However, this representation of the dress was not endorsed by the local audience, said Roces.

Likewise, when President Macapagal-Arroyo took her oath after President Joseph Estrada's ouster, Roces observed that the former wore a western suit to distinguish herself from her predecessor, who always wore a barong. The move was a way of presenting herself as an efficient, professional woman, in "contrast to the inefficiency and ineptitude of her predecessor."

"The national dress was worn to further political agendas," said Roces. In the Philippines, it has been used by politicians and leaders to transform themselves into national icons, thereby assuring the dress its own place in history and scholarship.

E-mail the author at cmoral@inquirer.com.ph

PRESIDENT Corazon Aquino, shown here in a feminized barong, became synonymous with the Western yellow dress, to differentiate herself from the terno-wearing Imelda Marcos.



UNLIKE in the past, it has become customary for visiting foreign dignitaries to wear the national dress of the host country. Donning identical barongs, US President Bill Clinton and President Fidel Ramos are shown here at the 1996 Apec summit in Subic.

THE MARCOSES in Philippine costumes

DR. Mina Roces

CHECHE MORAL

Dahil meron ka.

Meron kang kapangyarihan. Meron kang karapatan.
Meron kang kakayahan. Meron kang pangarap.
At sa lahat ng haharapin mo,
merong sumusuporta sa 'yo nang buong-buo.

Modess

Celebrates Women's Month

sms feedback: inquirer life name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart)

INQUIRER COMICS Sunday

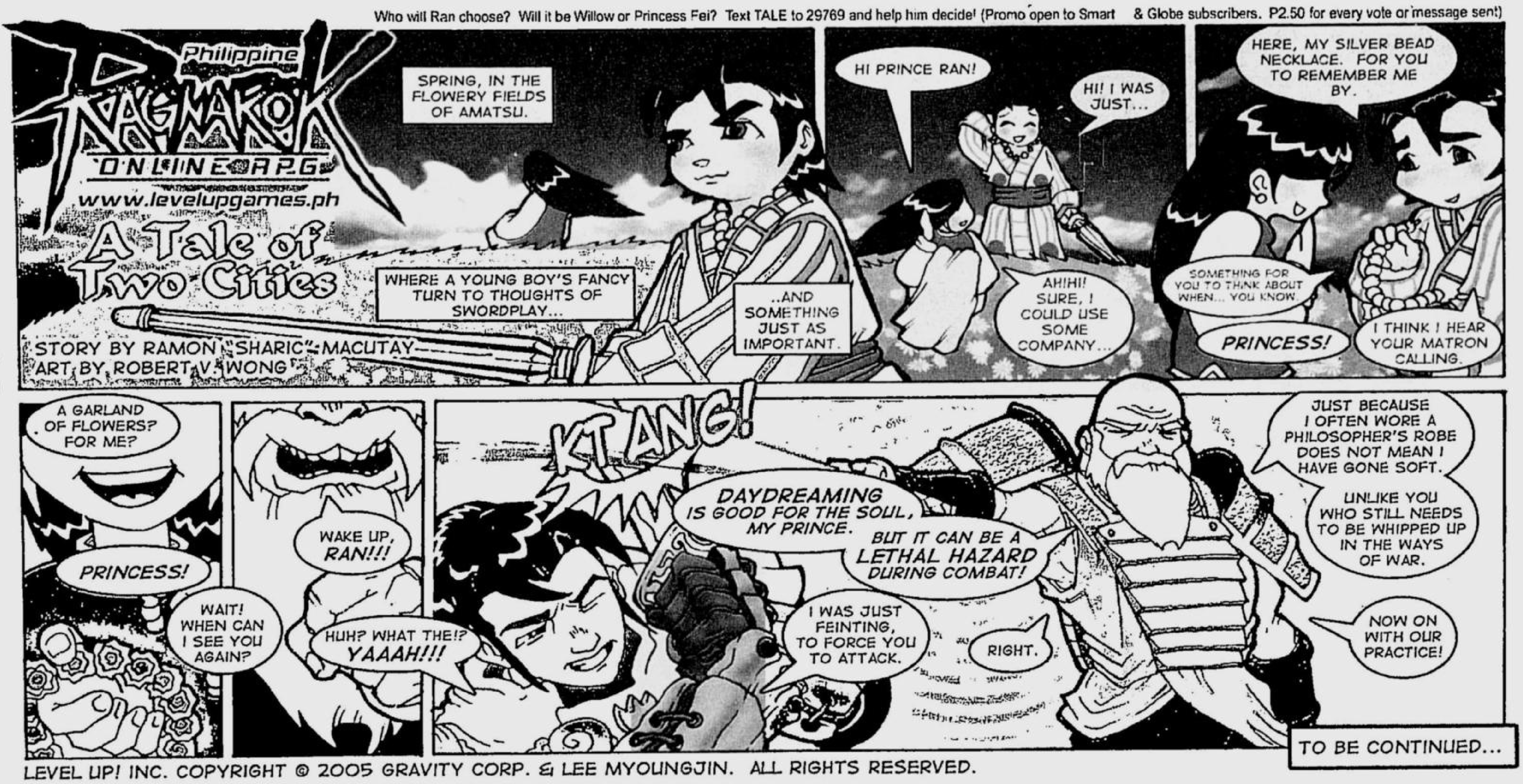
MARCH 6, 2005

e-mail feedback: arts@inquirer.com.ph

RAGNAROK

BY ROBERT WONG

Who will Ran choose? Will it be Willow or Princess Fei? Text TALE to 29769 and help him decide! (Promo open to Smart & Globe subscribers. P2.50 for every vote or message sent)


Philippine RAGNAROK ONLINE RPG
www.levelupgames.ph
A Tale of Two Cities
STORY BY RAMON "SHARIC" MACUTAY
ART BY ROBERT V. WONG
SPRING, IN THE FLOWERY FIELDS OF AMATSU.
WHERE A YOUNG BOY'S FANCY TURN TO THOUGHTS OF SWORDPLAY...
..AND SOMETHING JUST AS IMPORTANT.
HI PRINCE RAN!
HI! I WAS JUST...
AHIHI! SURE, I COULD USE SOME COMPANY...
HERE, MY SILVER BEAD NECKLACE. FOR YOU TO REMEMBER ME BY.
SOMETHING FOR YOU TO THINK ABOUT WHEN... YOU KNOW.
PRINCESS!
I THINK I HEAR YOUR MATRON CALLING.
A GARLAND OF FLOWERS? FOR ME?
PRINCESS!
WAIT! WHEN CAN I SEE YOU AGAIN?
WAKE UP, RAN!!!
HUH? WHAT THE!? YAAAH!!!
KTANG!
DAYDREAMING IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL, MY PRINCE.
BUT IT CAN BE A LETHAL HAZARD DURING COMBAT!
I WAS JUST FEINTING, TO FORCE YOU TO ATTACK.
RIGHT.
JUST BECAUSE I OFTEN WORE A PHILOSOPHER'S ROBE DOES NOT MEAN I HAVE GONE SOFT.
UNLIKE YOU WHO STILL NEEDS TO BE WHIPPED UP IN THE WAYS OF WAR.
NOW ON WITH OUR PRACTICE!
TO BE CONTINUED...

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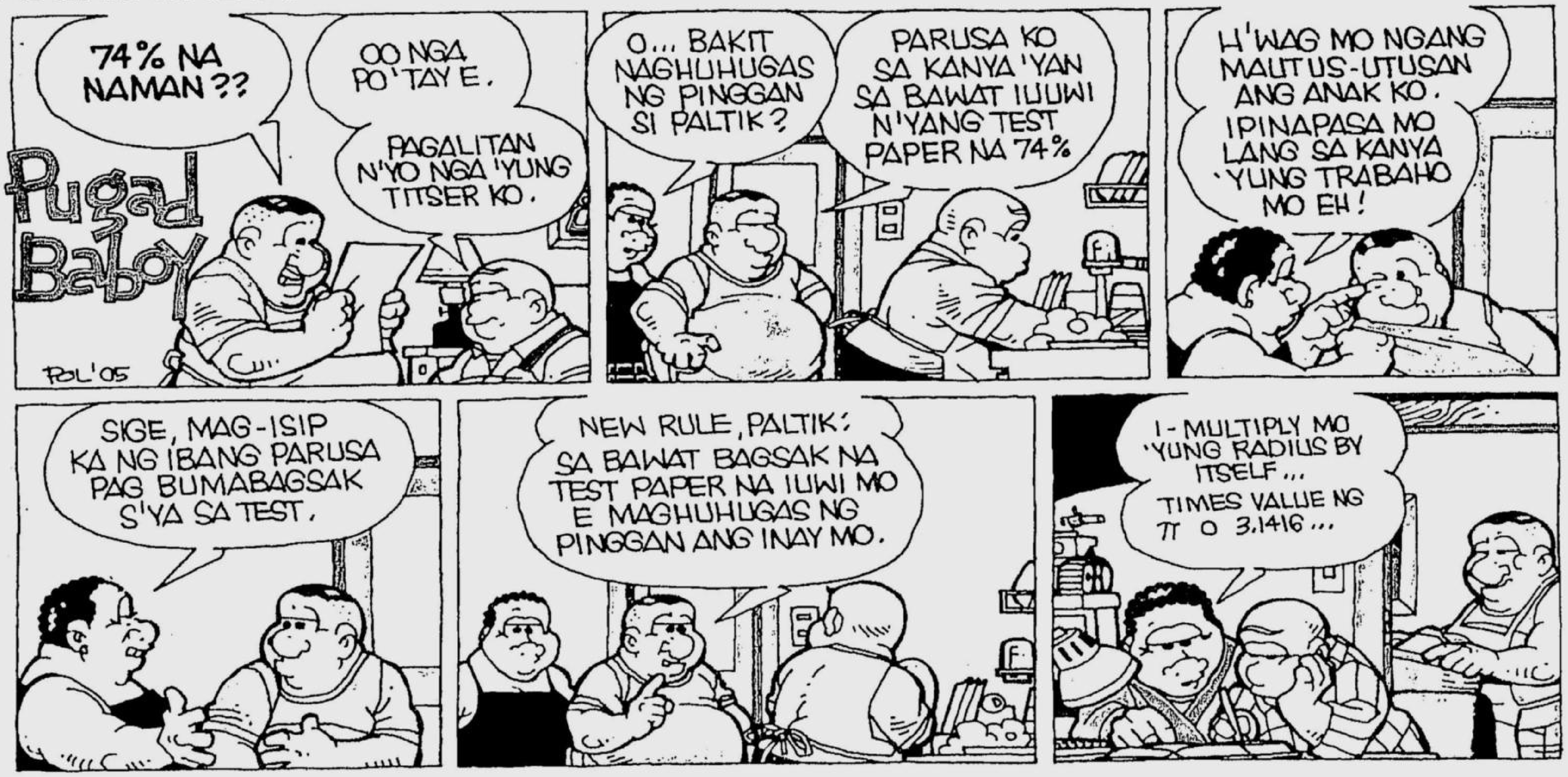
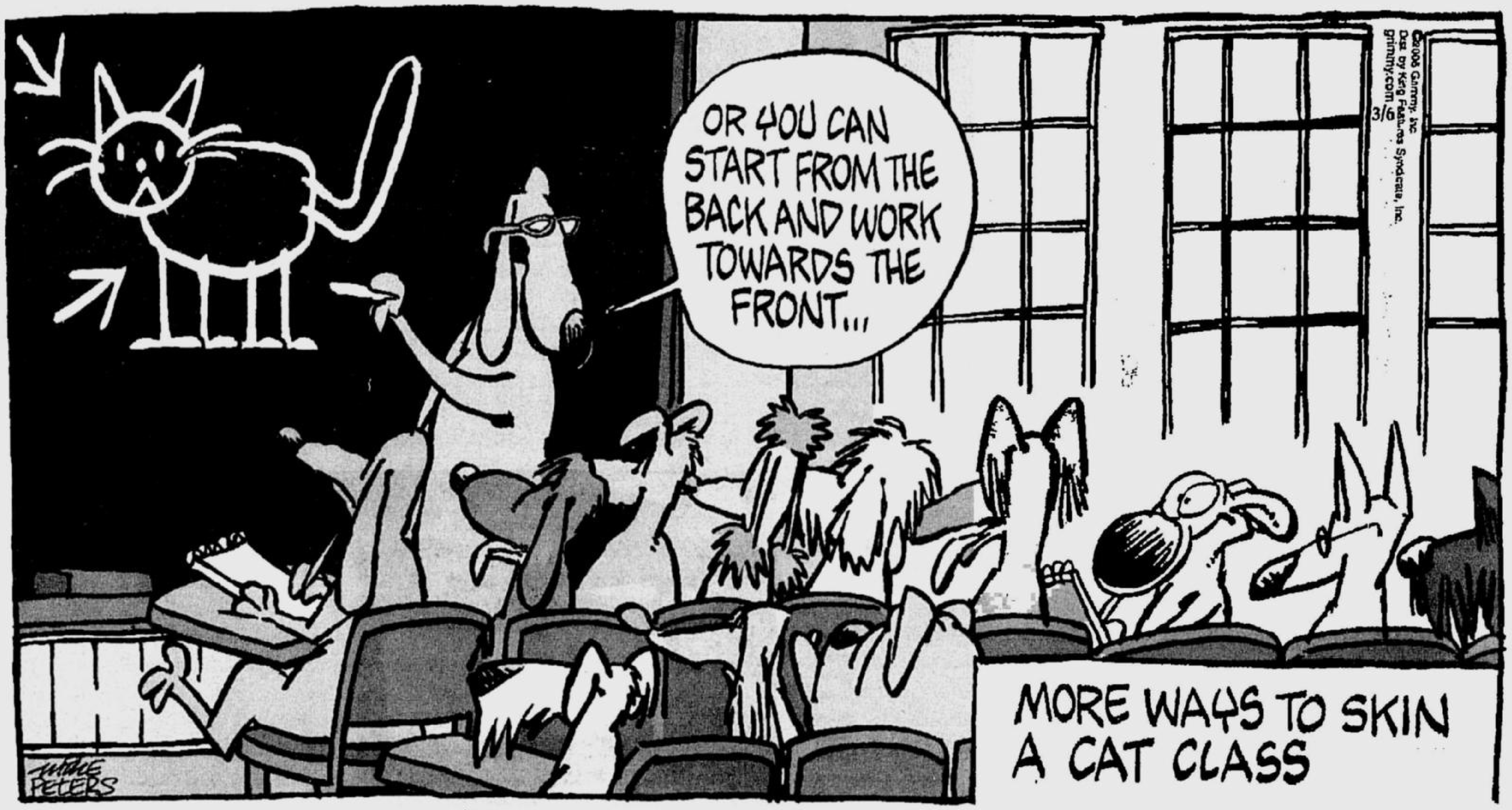
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


74% NA NAMAN??
OO NGA PO 'TAY E.
PAGALITAN N'YO NGA 'YUNG TITSER KO.
Pugad Baboy
POL '05
O... BAKIT NAGHUHUGAS NG PINGGAN SI PALTIK?
PARUSA KO SA KANYA 'YAN SA BAWAT IUUWI N'YANG TEST PAPER NA 74%
H'WAG MO NGANG MAUTUS-UTUSAN ANG ANAK KO. IPINAPASA MO LANG SA KANYA 'YUNG TRABAHO MO EH!
SIGE, MAG-ISIP KA NG IBANG PARUSA PAG BUMABAGSAK S'YA SA TEST.
NEW RULE, PALTIK: SA BAWAT BAGSAK NA TEST PAPER NA IUUWI MO E MAGHUHUGAS NG PINGGAN ANG INAY MO.
I-MULTIPLY MO 'YUNG RADIUS BY ITSELF... TIMES VALUE NG π O 3.1416...

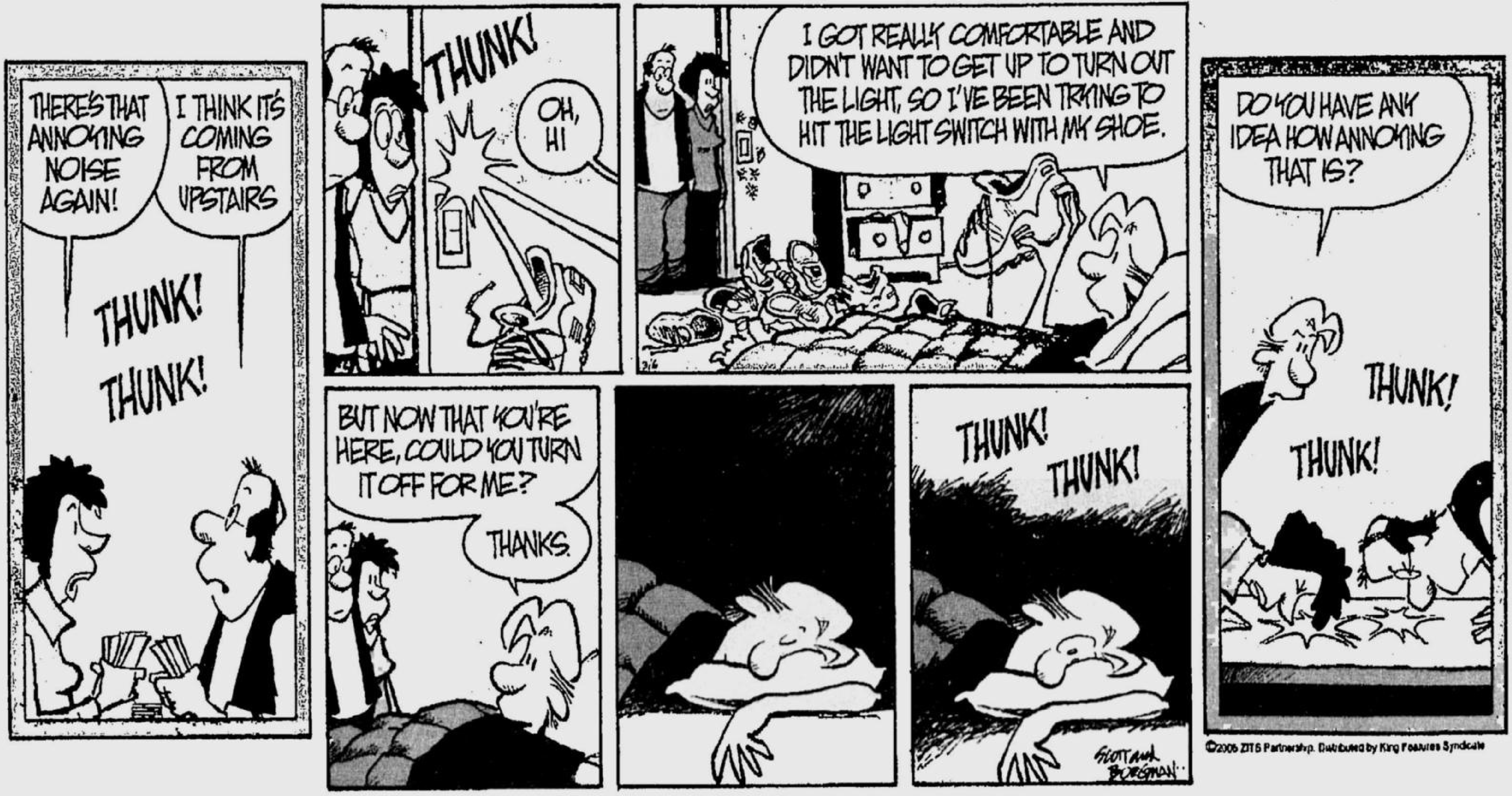
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


OR YOU CAN START FROM THE BACK AND WORK TOWARDS THE FRONT...
©2005 Grimmy, Inc. Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc. grimmy.com 3/6
MORE WAYS TO SKIN A CAT CLASS
MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


THERE'S THAT ANNOYING NOISE AGAIN!
I THINK IT'S COMING FROM UPSTAIRS
THUNK!
THUNK!
THUNK!
OH, HI
I GOT REALLY COMFORTABLE AND DIDN'T WANT TO GET UP TO TURN OUT THE LIGHT, SO I'VE BEEN TRYING TO HIT THE LIGHT SWITCH WITH MY SHOE.
3/6
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, COULD YOU TURN IT OFF FOR ME?
THANKS.
THUNK!
THUNK!
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW ANNOYING THAT IS?
THUNK!
THUNK!

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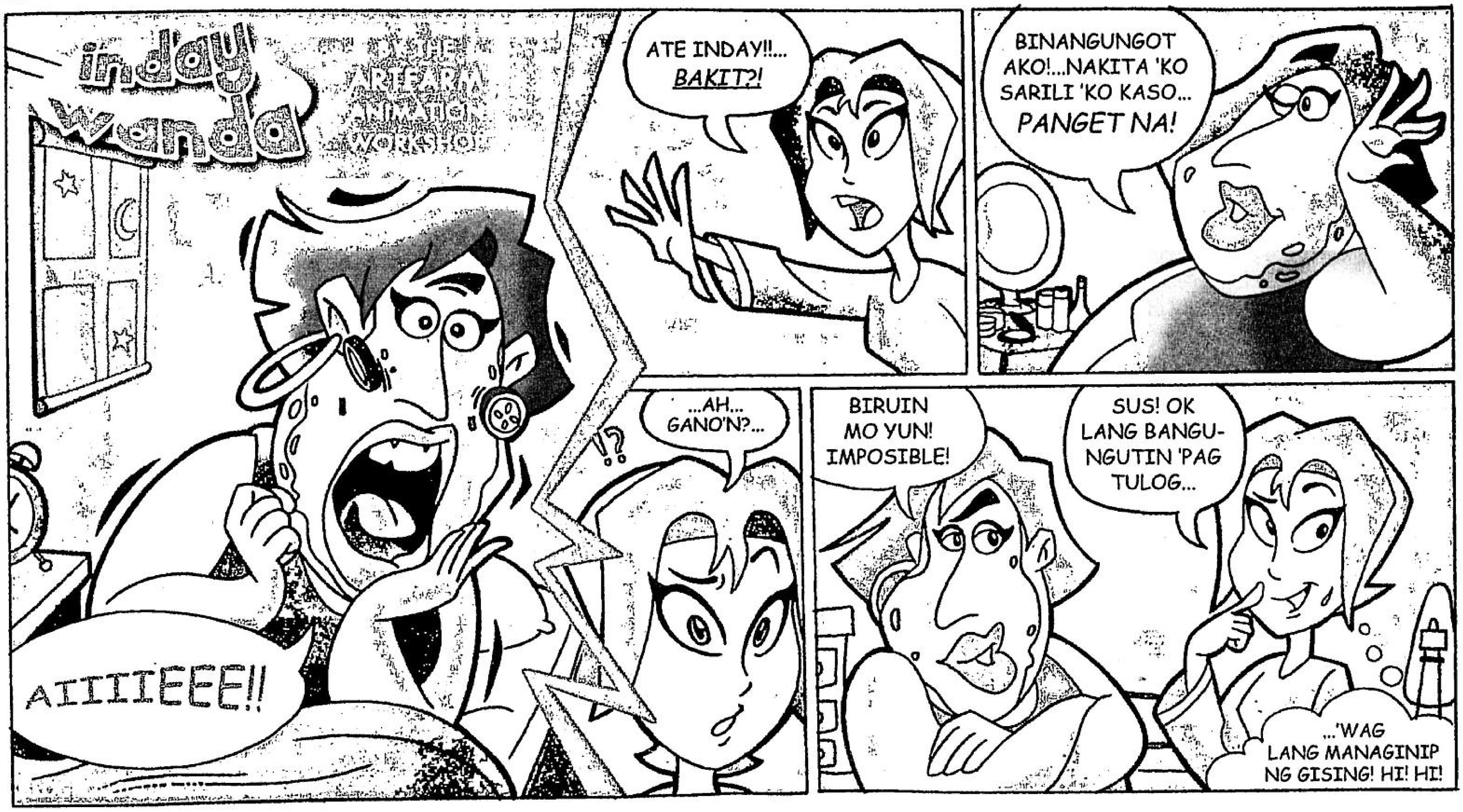
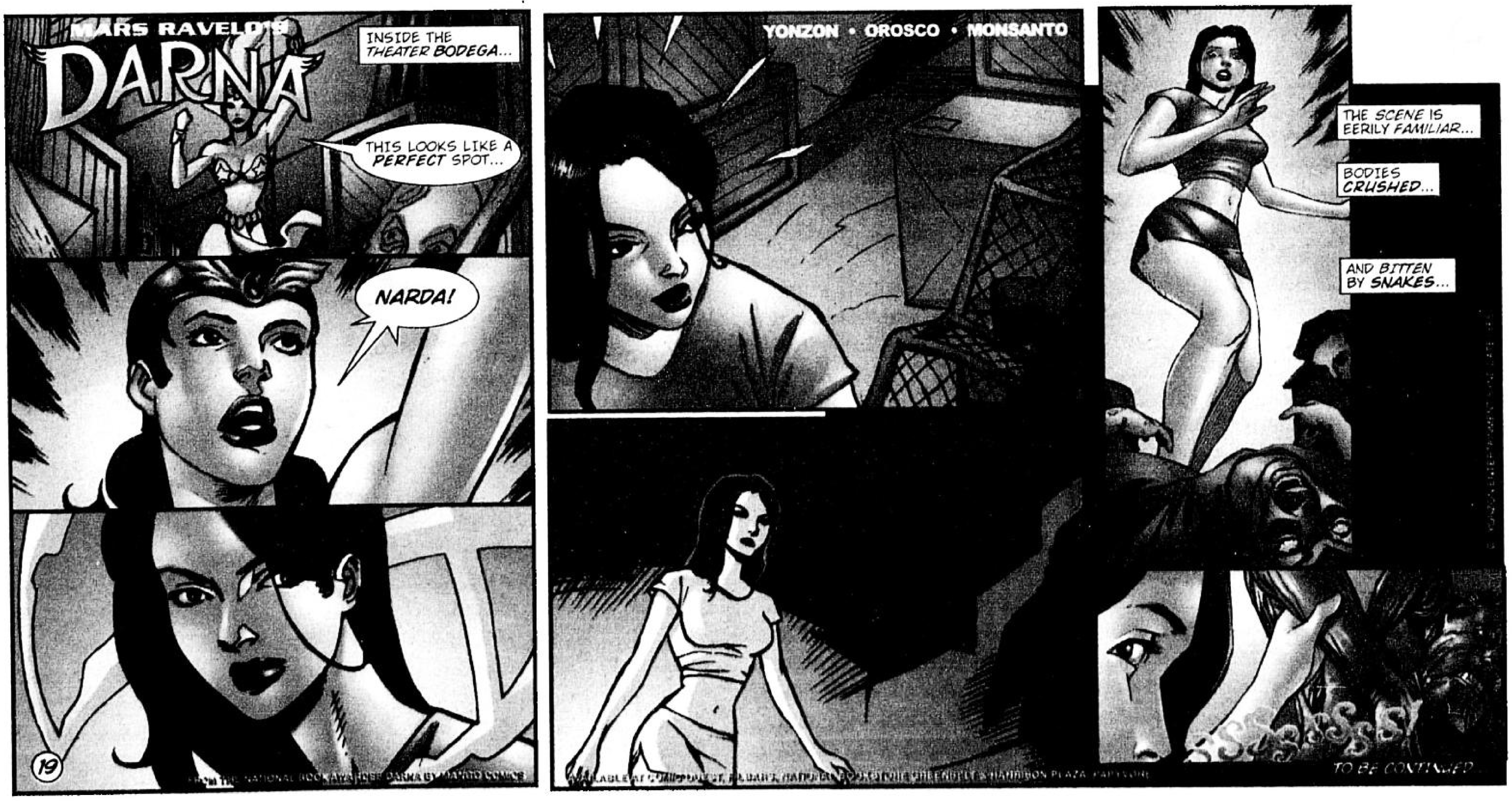
INDAY WANDA

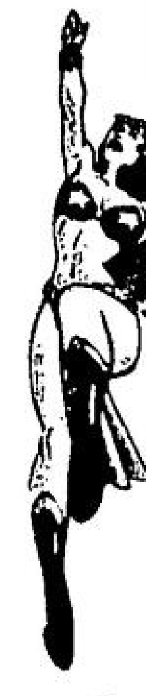
BY BLOG CALIGUIA


inday wanda
BY THE ARTEFARM ANIMATION WORKSHOP
AIIIIEEEE!!
ATE INDAY!!... BAKIT?!
BINANGUNGOT AKO!...NAKITA 'KO SARILI 'KO KASO... PANGET NA!
!?
...AH... GANO'N?...
BIRUIN MO YUN! IMPOSIBLE!
SUS! OK LANG BANGUNGUTIN 'PAG TULOG...
...'WAG LANG MANAGINIP NG GISING! HI! HI!

DARNA

BY MANGO COMICS


MARS RAVELO'S
DARNA
INSIDE THE THEATER BODEGA...
THIS LOOKS LIKE A PERFECT SPOT...
NARDA!
YONZON • OROSCO • MONSANTO
THE SCENE IS EERILY FAMILIAR...
BODIES CRUSHED...
AND BITTEN BY SNAKES...
SSSSSSS!
19
FROM THE NATIONAL BOOK AWARDEE DARNA BY MANGO COMICS
AVAILABLE AT [illegible] GREENBELT & HARRISON PLAZA [illegible]
TO BE CONTINUED...

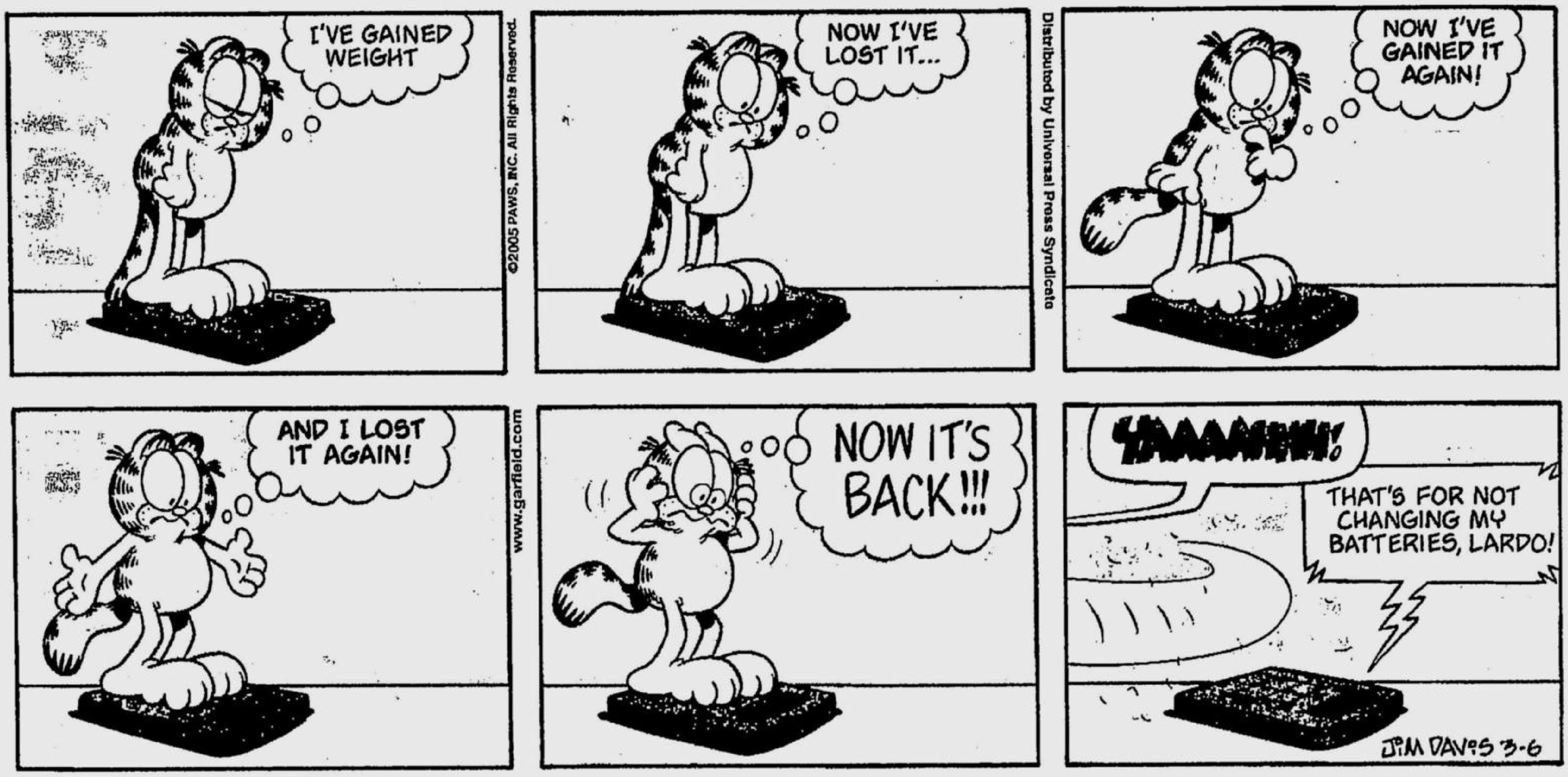


A.

FOLD OUT AT CENTER TO GET THE BIG PICTURE

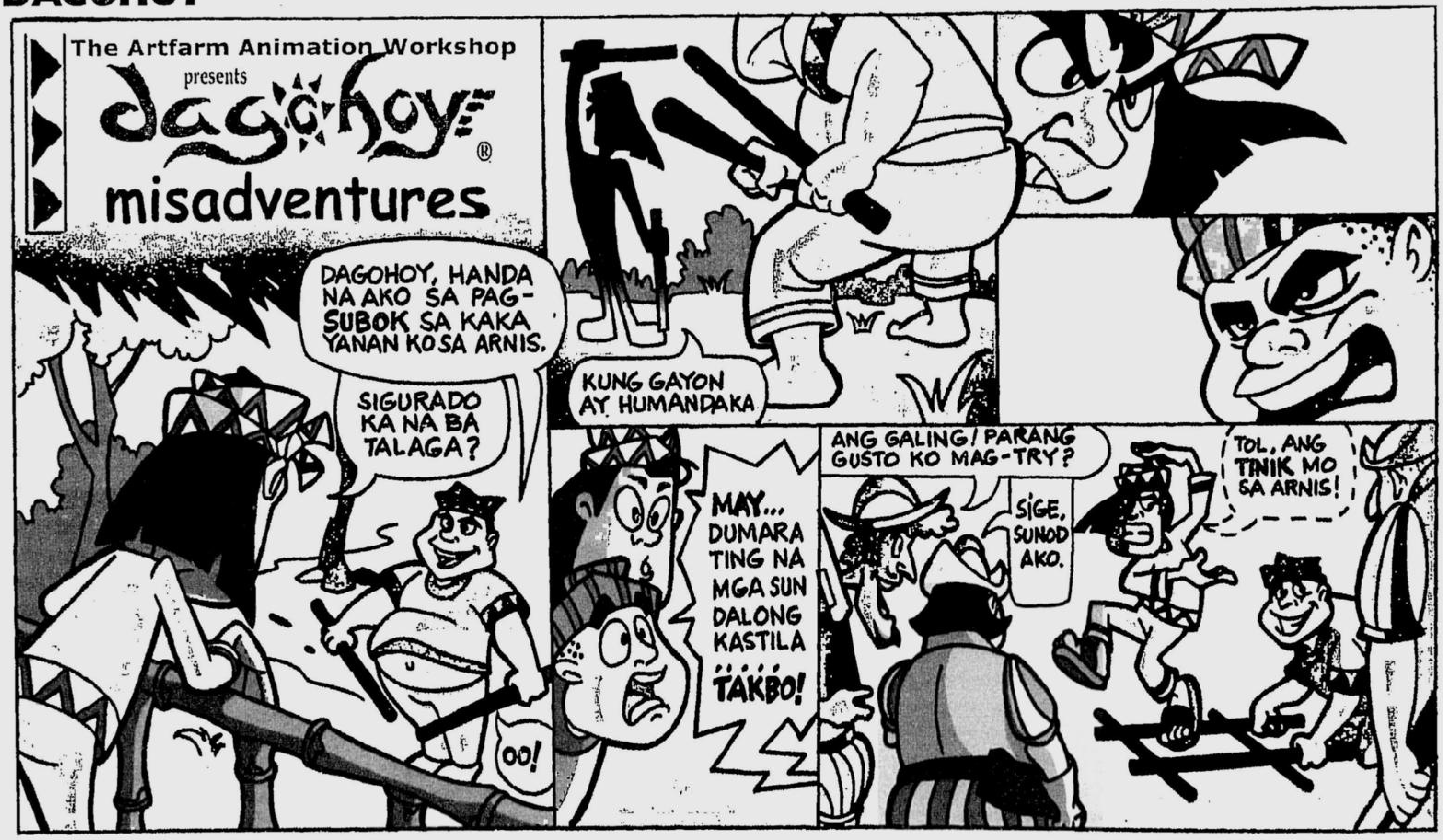
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS


I'VE GAINED WEIGHT
©2005 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
NOW I'VE LOST IT...
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
NOW I'VE GAINED IT AGAIN!
AND I LOST IT AGAIN!
www.garfield.com
NOW IT'S BACK!!!
YAAAAHHH!
THAT'S FOR NOT CHANGING MY BATTERIES, LARDO!
JIM DAVIS 3-6

DAGOHOY

BY NELSON CALIGUIA


The Artfarm Animation Workshop
presents
dagohoy®
misadventures
DAGOHOY, HANDA NA AKO SA PAG-SUBOK SA KAKAYANAN KO SA ARNIS.
SIGURADO KA NA BA TALAGA?
OO!
KUNG GAYON AY HUMANDAKA
MAY... DUMARATING NA MGA SUNDALONG KASTILA ..... TAKBO!
ANG GALING! PARANG GUSTO KO MAG-TRY?
SIGE, SUNOD AKO.
TOL, ANG TINIK MO SA ARNIS!

B. TURN THE PAGE TO GET IT RIGHT

"MODERN royals" creations of Dennis Lustico

NEW Bench billboard model Zanjoe Marudo, designer Rajo Laurel and Eazel Don

"VINTAGE glamour" creations of Randy Ortiz

Shocking news: I'm on the hip mom list!

I feel like I have run the gamut of possible lists—and all this in the midst of my pregnancy

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

FROM MY making it on last year's Most Stylish List of Mega Magazine to my recent nomination to the Most Hip Mom List of Smart Parenting Magazine, I feel like I have run the gamut of possible lists—and all this in the midst of my pregnancy. Summit Media, which just celebrated 10 years in the publishing business, ran an internal poll among its growing staff, and it is so nice of them to think that I am a "hip mom."

This feature will be out in time for Mothers' Day this May, but since I will be delivering any day by then, I asked if I could have my pictorial early. Besides I weigh less today than I will in two months' time, and no mother wants to look like a mother on Mothers' Day. No, sir, we want to look like wives! Or in some cases, we even want to look like mistresses!

The only problem with making any "list," is one can already anticipate the unfavorable opinions from readers who disagree. Anyone who makes any list should remain unfazed by any negativity from the list-nitpicking crowd. In my case, I welcome unpleasant comments since I just dress to please myself and all are entitled to their own opinions, which I respect.

Here's one reader's opinion, for example, "The press always features **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** because she keeps wearing outfits no other person would wear—all those wigs, features, beads and over-the-top costumes. But I don't think this makes her one of the country's best-dressed women! How did she end up on your list? *Sobra*!"

Mega Magazine's editor in chief **Liza Ilarde** responded to that particular letter by explaining that their list is a Most Stylish List and not a Best-Dressed List. She wrote that being stylish does not mean owning the latest bags or designer gowns or dressing appropriately; rather style is the expression of one's personality and individuality through what the person wears. Thank God there are such articulate editors around to craft excellent responses.

New editor

After 12 years with the Mega family, Liza recently announced a shocker: she is retiring! What makes one retire in the midst of her prime? This will surely open a new phase in her life and we can only guess what plans she has for her bright future ahead. Best of luck, Liza! Retirement is truly a choice of what one has planned or what one wants to do in the years ahead. Some women want to pursue the mommy track while such a word does not even exist in my energetic mother's vocabulary.

The new editor on the block is a longtime college friend (though years younger), **Carla Sibal**, who spent a year in College of Notre Dame in California before graduating in the Parsons School of Design. Even then, she had a keen eye on fashion and started her own clothing shop called Baghera. She has now closed that and will try her hand in the world of fashion journalism. I am sure she will attack it with her usual extremely artistic fervor and do an exceptional job.

At the unveiling event of the new Pond's Skin Whitening Vitamin Leave-on Range in the Ayala Museum, Carla and I were able to catch up with each other's colorful lives just before the fashion show featuring some of Pond's image models like **Nicole Hernandez** and **Georgina Wilson.** Georgina is a friend of my 19-year-old son, **Bryan**, so you can already sense how young these pretty girls are.

Whitening craze

That night we were introduced to the new Pond's products that will surely sell well, since majority of Filipinas have a desire for whiter skin. In contrast, Caucasians flood our beaches to attain our *kayumanggi* color, that is, the perfect tan. There are a multitude of skin-whitening treatments but this seems the most appealing because of its ingredients like Vitamins B3 and C, pearl nutrients and double sunshields. I am no beauty expert but Pond's cold cream has been in my mother's and her mother's beauty regimen, so this product must surely work.

A special fashion show highlighted Pond's Collections by three outstanding designers, each representing perfect moments women go through in life. **Rajo Laurel** featured sweet, puffy silhouettes with his prom dresses (the skirts where so voluminous, I could hide my tummy in there). **Dennis Lustico** took care of the debut gowns inspired from modern royals of the 1950s. And **Randy Ortiz** celebrated the perfect first date with vintage glamour gowns. The models and gowns all looked so gorgeous, I soon dreamed of the perfect waistline with matching skinny arms and legs. I might have a better chance using Pond's to make me fairer than regaining a 23-inch waistline after my fourth baby.

EVENT host Angel Jacob, JR Isaac and Pauline Juan

DESIGNING mom Lulu Tan Gan and daughter Sam

FAB friends Josephine Knox and Malu Gamboa

NEW Mega editor Carla Sibal

Maureen Disini

JUST Shop's Jenni Epperson and Astrud Crisologo

RAJO family support: Lola Betty Laurel and Ditas Laurel

ELEGANT mom Gloria Angara and daughter Ana

ADVERTISING friends Jose Soriano and Joey Campillo

HAIRSTYLIST Henry Calayag and Jackie Aquino

World of caring

Two years ago, I met a most inspiring young British gentleman who has touched the lives of so many less fortunate Filipinos. For a foreigner to be so obliging to the underprivileged and not be from any religious order is very surprising. **Dylan Wilk**, who is so clean-cut that he looks like those Mormon-preaching foreigners wearing white short-sleeved shirts and ties, was a successful computer-gaming millionaire who has given up his business life to help Gawad Kalinga, a rehabilitation and housing program uplifting the lives of the urban poor.

After our initial introduction and feeling his kindness throughout lunch, I was invited to help build one of the houses and even featured this project in one of my previous columns. Fast-forward to this year, with Kalinga Luzon launched at the NBC Tent with top corporations and our government supporting GK's goal of building 40,000 homes in the calamity-stricken areas of Luzon. My minuscule donation may be nothing compared to the funds raised by the corporate giants supporting GK, but every bit counts.

When a disservice has been done to you, you should look at it from a positive perspective and convert that into a valuable lesson learned. I recently felt this way when I felt that I was taken advantage of by some people I knew. But I also feel that as long as I continue to do as best as I can and just keep a sense of goodness within me, that in itself is heartwarming and fulfilling enough.

E-mail seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

San Beda honors successful alumni

THE SAN BEDA College Alumni Association (SBCAA) marked its 81st founding anniversary with the traditional Red and White Ball held recently at the NBC Tent, Bonifacio Global City.

With the theme "A Celebration of Bedan Achievement," the ball honored Bedans who made a difference through lives of service in the spirit of San Beda's motto: Prayer, study, work and pursuit of peace.

Leading the honorees was business tycoon Andrew Gotianun who, together with the late Fernando Poe Jr., the late Don Antonio Roxas-Chua and the late Jesus Cabarrus, became the first to be elevated to the Hall of Fame in Profession.

Awards and citations were also handed out to Globe executive Rudy Salalima, Philippine Tourism Authority manager Dean Barbers, Surigao Gov. Lyndon Barbers, Fiorgelato owner-manager Ricky Cuna, Las Vegas-based businessman Henry Lee Chan, electric cooperative manager Mon Posadas, educator-lawyer Gonzalo Duque, Mayor Genaro Mendoza, businessman James Sy, car racer Jody Coseteng, businessman Remy Monteverde and acupuncturist Dr. Ed Concepcion.

Elevated to the San Beda Sports Hall of Fame were Cesar Jota, Eduardo Pacheco, Ramon Melendez, Antonio Carillo, Manuel Zervoulakos, Angel de la Paz and Jesus Marzan. Rep. Jose Carlos V. Lacson received the Ramon V. Mitra Award for outstanding legislative service.

Acclaimed stylist Rachy Cuna, a Bedan, designed a gold-filled obelisk trophy for the awardees.

San Beda alumni in the fields of business and industry, sports, government service and the entertainment industry attended the event, including Manny V. Pangilinan, head of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company.

The highlight of the annual ball was the *rigodon de honor*. Participants included Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry chair Mike Varela and wife Cecile, Triple V's Maridel Villavicencio, businessman Jose Mari Lacson, Toyota Shaw president Arthur Macapagal and wife Mariter, Yvette Poe, Sycip-Gorres-Velayo partner Manny Reyes, House of Representatives deputy secretary Cardie Roque, Real Bank president Jose Araullo and former Sen. Nikki Coseteng, Louie and Mely Ablaza.

Singer/comedienne Giselle Sanchez provided the entertainment while Bedan Calvin Millado was host.

Other guests were lawyer Sixto Brillantes, Jose Miguel Cabarrus, Chito Loyzaga with wife Toni Yulo, architect Gerry Contreras, Rep. Joseph Santiago, Rep. Butz Aquino, information technology specialist Gus Lagman, Rex bookstore owner Dominador Buhain, Dr. Jaime Galvez-Tan and Nicolas "Tata" Carranceja, SBCAA president.

PHILIPPINE Tourism Authority GM Dean Barbers is Most Distinguished Bedan.

Dog walk to dramatize animal rights

THE PHILIPPINE Canine Club Inc. (PCCI) will hold on March 20 the Dog Walk For A Cause/Luv Ko Si Bantay project, which seeks to eclipse the standing record in the Guinness Book of World Records and firm up animal rights advocacy in the country.

PCCI president Byron San Pedro said assembly point is the Luneta Grandstand. Dog lovers are expected to fill the stretch of Roxas Boulevard up to the Philippine International Convention Center.

Participants are the Bureau of Animal Industry, Philippine Animal Welfare Society, Animal Kingdom Foundation, Boy Scouts of the Philippines, National Pitbull Terrier Club Inc., Philippine Pitbull Club, American Pitbull Club and United Pitbull Club.

The PCCI is holding the activity to stop the cruel treatment of animals, especially dogs. It also aims to stop the practice of dog-eating.

The world record on dog walk is 5,000, set in England on June 20, 2004.

The PCCI boasts of more than 100,000 members and affiliated clubs nationwide.

"Anyone with dogs, purebred or mongrels, are welcome to join the dog walk event," said San Pedro.

Similar activities will also be held in Bacolod, Baguio, Batangas, Bohol, Bukidnon, Bulacan, Cagayan de Oro, Cebu, Davao, General Santos, Iloilo, La Union, Laguna, Pampanga, Pangasinan, Tarlac and other areas.

Reunion set

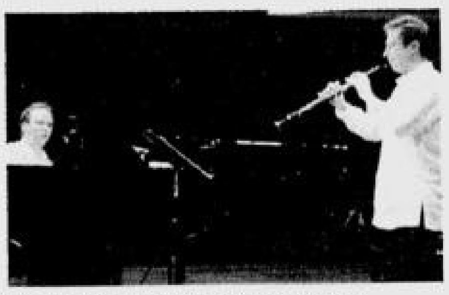
CALLING all Allied Thread Company employees of Brgy. Maybunga, Pasig City from 1954 to 1998. There will be a grand reunion on April 10, 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at Ciudad Grande Clubhouse, Ortigas Avenue, Brgy. Rosario, Pasig. Call Romy Medina at 6558129; Pete Petalio, 6437300; Matt Ramos, 6403563.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Colorful welcome for new Thai envoy

TAIWAN Ambassador Hsiu-Hsing Wu and Charles Piang, deputy director general

LOUIE and Mellie Ablaza



CHAMBER music recital with Belgian musicians Johan Moeyersoons and Tom Deneckere

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

THE INDEFATIGABLE woman for all seasons **Narda Camacho**, president of the Metro Manila Council of Women Balikatan Movement and chair of the National Committee on the Centennial of the Feminist Movement in the Philippines, organized a spectacular presentation of the Evolution of the Filipina dress in February at the Manila Pavilion.

The *merienda* presentation couldn't have been done without the generous support of the dean of Philippine couturiers, **Ben Farrales**, and the members of the Fashion Designers Association of the Philippines (headed by **Edgar San Diego** as president). **Boysie Villavicencio** had a special participation—a sophisticated terno modeled by **Marisa Camacho**.

The event was a *bienvenida* as well by the Balikatan ladies for the new Thai ambassador, **Asha Dvitiyananda**; **Jill Beckingham**, wife of the newly arrived United Kingdom ambassador, **Peter Beckingham**; **Elba Gonzalez de Rey**, wife of Cuban ambassador **Jorge Rey Jimenez**; and **Rita Juita Sanusi**, wife of Indonesian charge d'affaires M. Sanusi.

Chinese New Year treat

In celebration of the Chinese New Year, the Taiwan Economic and Cultural Office, headed by Ambassador and Mme. **Hsiu-Hsing Wu**, hosted an invitation-only premiere of dances, songs and acrobatic performances from Taipei at the Meralco Theater. The hour-long show was an enjoyable treat for Filipino guests who thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Opera Ball

All set for the 2005 Opera Ball and presentation of debutantes at **Chito Madrigal Collantes'** residence are members of the Johann Strauss Society and the Philippine Red Cross, the beneficiary of this worthwhile endeavor. Also involved is, of course, Manila Mandarin, one of the promoters of Viennese culture and host of visiting conductor **Ernest Hoetzo** and choreographer **Susanne Jankula**.

Belgian National Day

Instead of the usual cocktail reception, Ambassador and Mme. **Christian Tanghe** hosted a Chamber Music Recital featuring Belgian musicians **Johan Moeyersoons** and **Tom Deneckere** at PCI Bank's Nicanor Santiago Hall to celebrate Belgium's 175 years of independence. It may start a trend as it seems like a great idea. Everyone enjoyed the performance.

LEONARDA Camacho, Valentina Nebogatova, Clara Colesanti; Jolynn Sutherland, wife of Canadian Ambassador Peter Sutherland; Thai Ambassador Asha Dvitiyananda; Legal Affairs Secretary Merceditas Gutierrez; Elba Gonzalez de Rey; and Swiss Ambassador Lise Favre

AMBASSADOR Domingo Lee with Ambassador and Madame Hsiu-Hsing Wu

BELGIAN Ambassador Christian and Gul Tanghe

PHOTOS: BETOY JOHNSON

FRONT: Baby de Jesus, Consul Fortune Ledesma, Ben Farrales, Lina Aurelio, Rosa Rosal, Mellie Ablaza, Mabel Abaño, Nini Layug, Berna Lomotan and Alice Guerrero with the debutantes

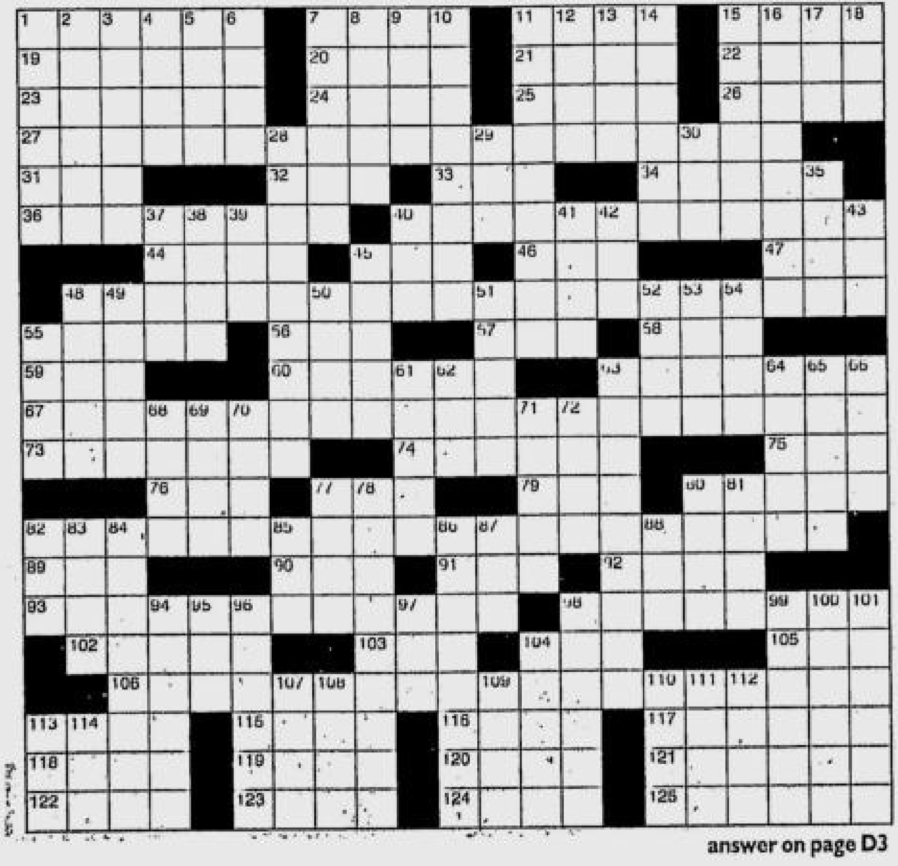
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

DESCENDING

ACROSS
1 Dan Quayle's successor
7 Shoulder band
11 Asinine
15 F followers
19 Medusa was one
20 Cracker brand
21 Not aweather
22 Uncle Ben's, e.g.
23 "Yippee!"
24 "The jig —!"
25 Hose flaw
26 Help a perp
27 Start of a riddle
31 Watched a baby
32 Tavern quaff
33 Penpoint
34 Lindley of "Three's Company"
36 10 cubed
40 Riddle, part 2
44 See 116-Across
45 Arafat's gp.
46 King topper
47 Words said to be wed
48 Riddle, part 3
55 Comic strip section
56 Sushi fish
57 Merchandise: Abbr.
58 Paving stuff
59 Hellion
60 African country
63 WWII torpedo ships
67 Riddle, part 4
73 Dancer Fred
74 Italian desserts
75 Manage, with "out"
76 "All seats are taken" abbr.
77 Sorority letters
79 Body pouch
80 Palace area for women
82 Riddle, part 5
89 Bird down under
90 Prefix with 79-Across
91 Raised rails
92 Composer Schifrin
93 End of the riddle
98 It has "Save" and "Print" options
102 Nail alternative
103 Part of i.e.
104 Grads.-to-be
105 Piloted
106 Riddle's answer
113 "Semper fi" gp.
115 Oslo loc.
116 With 44-Across, polluted precipitation
117 Pass, as time
118 Partner of potatoes
119 Navigator Vasco da —
120 Anatomical ducts
121 Falling star
122 Zoo units
123 Don't go anywhere
124 Effortless
125 Jeers at

DOWN
1 Horrified
2 Washcloth alternative
3 Small cave
4 Beast
5 Crowd din
6 New Age singing star
7 Knight's burden
8 Usher's beat
9 Synagogue
10 Dr. Seuss classic
11 Odometer locale
12 Forearm bone
13 Arizona-Nevada resort lake
14 Alms-seeker
15 Rio —
16 Ireland, in verse
17 Cola cooler
18 747, say
28 Home mortgage provider, informally
29 Clever humor
30 "Yes, Jacques!"
35 Something appended: Abbr.
37 Craving
38 Comic Mort
39 Televise
40 Suffix with form or Drac
41 Deeds
42 Not masc.
43 Apply turf to
45 Petronas Towers architect Cesar —
48 Militant movement
49 Ideas offered
50 Tailor's line
51 "— can dream, can't she?"
52 Ides of March words
53 Seizes
54 Believe, old-style
55 12-point type
61 Foreboding feeling
62 Affliction
63 No-frills store catalog
64 "Billy, Don't Be —"
65 One on the receiving end
66 Flower holder
68 Deep cut
69 Employ
70 Walked (on)
71 Flower holders
72 Tilted type: Abbr.
77 — Scotia
78 Red Cross funder
80 Disease-free
81 Molecule unit
82 Dover's st.
83 "Look at me, — helpless . . ."
84 He's from Holland
85 Circus cry
86 Spell of sultry weather
87 England's Isle of —
88 Actor Kilmer
94 Puts up, as a house
95 — center (activity-filled place)
96 Nasal tones
97 British mil. award
98 Part of TGIF
99 Runaway bride?
100 Willie of country
101 Milkers' handfuls
104 Holey cheese
107 Castle ditch
108 Ms. Bombeck
109 Sugar Bowl org.
110 Sewing edges
111 Actor Guinness
112 "The Elder" of Rome
113 Ref relative
114 Envision



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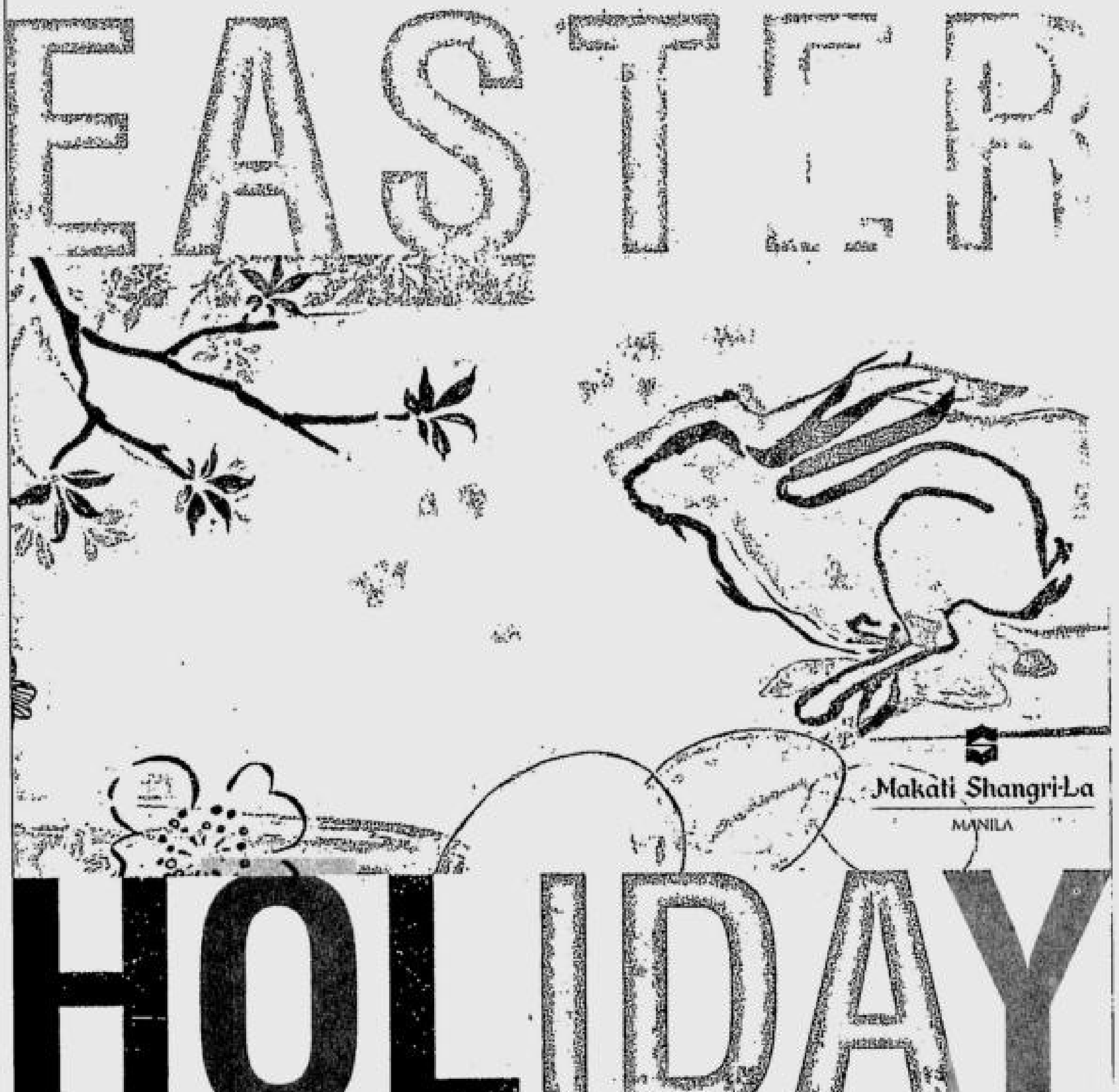

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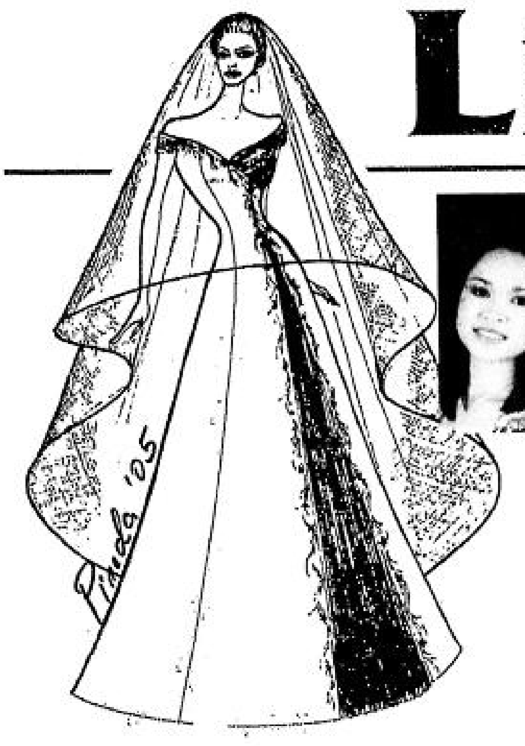
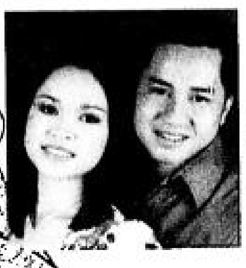


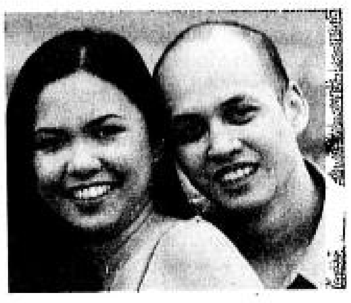


Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings and engagements. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple to the INQUIRER *office, or P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City, or e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.*

SAPITULA-ORIA

Dexter Wilfred Sapitula, son of **Wilredo** and **Efleda Sapitula**, and **Cynthia L. Oria II**, daughter of **Tito** and **Cynthia Oria**, will exchange wedding vows on March 19, at the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral. Reception will follow at the Heritage Hotel. The bride's gown was designed by **Veluz Reyes**.



ROASA-CASTILLO

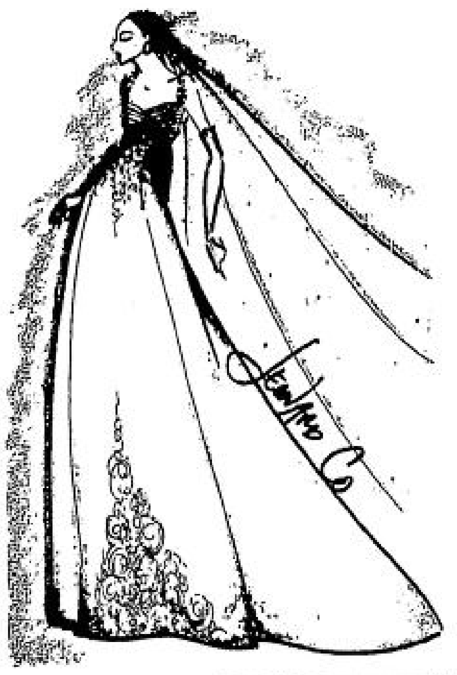
Carlo Alvin Roasa will wed **Ma. Romina Castillo**, on March 13 at the Chapel of Transfiguration, Caleruega, Nasugbu, Batangas. Reception will follow at Taal Vista Hotel, Tagaytay City. The bride will wear an off-shoulder ecru gown with beaded details at the back by **Aureo Alonzo**. The entourage will wear gowns in canary yellow, lavender and magenta motif.

VICMUDO-DAZA

Angelica Daza, daughter of **Louis Sr.** and **Josefina Daza**, will marry **Jeffrey Vicmudo**, son of **Raymundo** and **Lourdes Vicmudo**, on March 15 at Jesus Miracle Crusade International Ministry.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown using ivory Bolivia silk. The off-shoulder bodice features an asymmetric neckline with crushed-pleated chiffon.

Reception will follow at Miller Garden, Baler, QC.



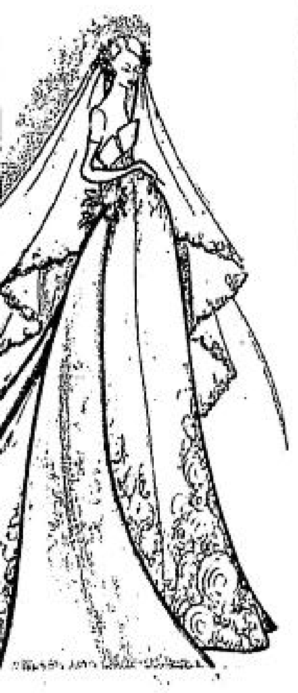
CO-DE LOS REYES

Jeniffer Co, daughter of **An Ling** and **Miguel Co**, will marry **Michael de los Reyes**, son of **Erlinda** and **Victoriano de los Reyes**, today at Peninsula Manila.

The bride will wear a white duchess satin in empire cut, with a two-meter train. Designed by **Leonard Co**, it has an asymmetric neckline and embellished sparingly with dainty floral and veins with pearl and cut glass beads.

BALALTA DEBUT

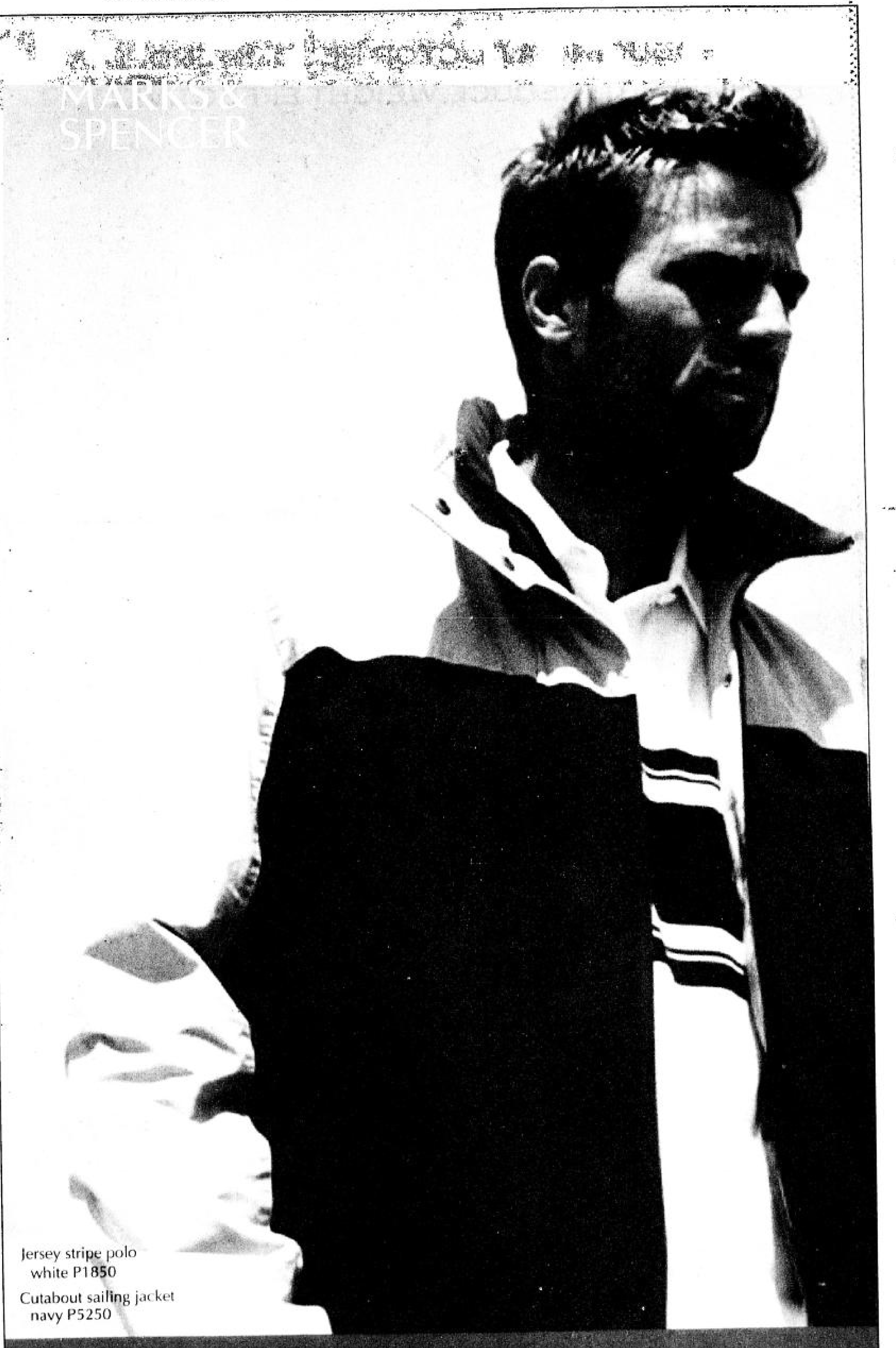
Katrina Balalta, daughter of **Gabriel** and **Cyril Balata**, will celebrate her 18th birthday on March 12 at Makati Shangri-La. She will wear a gown by **Paul Rex Mateo** of The Wedding Day.



LUI-SO

Margaret So, daughter of **Lee Chiow Le** and **Yee Sin So**, married recently **Wilson Lui**, son of **Lo So Yuet** and **Woon Wing Lui**, at the San Sebastian Church.

The bride wore a white metallic organza pleated top in empire cut, a semi-bias skirt, a detachable train air-brushed in monochromatic hues of frosted pink and sea blue and embellished with crystal, Swarovski stones in the same colors designed by **Leonard Co**.



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white P1850

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Boy's healing speeds up be

MOTHER Marie Theresia Bonzel, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

THE BEATIFICATION process of Mother Theresia Bonzel, founder of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, was speeded up with the acceptance by the Congress of Historics in Rome in 2002 of the miraculous cure of Luke Burgle.

Luke, of Colorado Springs in the United States, was 4 years old in 1998 when he was diagnosed with roto virus, a common childhood gastritis that causes severe diarrhea but normally lasts for a week. The boy's diarrhea lasted six months.

The Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration in Colorado Springs learned about Luke's illness and began praying to Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel, their founder.

In September 1999, just before Luke was to undergo more medical tests, he told his mother that "his tummy ache was gone." He began playing like a normal little boy. In October 1999, Luke's physician, Dr. Helen Dar, wrote in her testimony that all symptoms were suddenly resolved and there was no scientific explanation for the boy's recovery.

Luke's mother's account of the miracle was forwarded to the mother house of the nuns in Ople, Germany. It was later sent to Rome as the major miracle to be considered in the cause for beatification of Mother Theresia.

I am writing about Mother Theresia because the religious order she founded built a convent in Baybay, Leyte. Those who want prayers can write to Sister Judith Lorica at the St. Martin de Porres Convent, Baybay, Leyte. For more information, write to this address or text 0919-4086416. The order also welcomes aspirants. For healing, ask the nuns to pray for you. The order marked the 100th death anniversary of Mother Theresia in February all over the world.

Coffeetable book

"Building the Kingdom" is the title of the coffeetable book published by Msgr. Jaime Mora after the Jubilee Year in 2000 to chronicle the journey of faith of the people of Christ the King Parish in Greenmeadows, Quezon City.

The parish is part of the Vicariate of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In 1979, a portion of the Miraculous Medal Parish in Project 4 became Christ the King Parish, Greenmeadows. Three barangays comprise the parish: Ugong Norte, Talampas and Libis.

Msgr. Mora, then a young priest, led in the building of the church on a grassy knoll with the Greenmeadows Subdivision to the north, Acropolis to the east and the Church of Latter Day Saints to the west.

The groundbreaking was held
with Jaime Cardinal Sin. After six
beautiful church arose inspiring al
there.

If you wish to purchase the b
Christ the King Parish at 633028
spired like Venus Salangsang, wh
and edited it, and her friends: Dol
longan, Lagrimas Galang, Angelir
gan, Nell Laudico, and Andrea M
editorial and production manager;
nandez, book designer; and
Diechman, photographer.

Msgr. Mora has retired and now
the Filipinas Paradise retirement h
Naic, Cavite. He says Mass at
Wednesdays, First Fridays and eve
day.

Fiesta

Devotees of Ina Poon Bato celebr
fiesta in January in Botolon, Zamb
by Roselynn Magsaysay, devotees

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Reduce Weight and Waist, Reduce Risk

A conference to promote the national advocacy in countering obesity was conducted by the Philippine Association on the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO), in cooperation with Abbott Laboratories. The conference held last February 28, 2005 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, strengthened the issue of obesity as a medical condition.

Graced by two significant medical doctors specializing on the study of Obesity -- Professor Luc Van Gaal of the Department of Diabetology and Clinical Nutrition and Metabolism, University Hospital of Antwerp, and Dr. Ramon T. Abarquez, board member of the Philippine Association on the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO), addressed the effective ways in reducing weight and waist, therefore reducing risk for each individual.

Dr. Ramon T. Abarquez stressed that Obesity is a growing epidemic. "Obesity brings with it a range of illnesses particularly cardiovascular disorder, hypertension and diabetes type 2, among others, thus the need for lifestyle modification. In doing so, partnering with your doctor is the best advice." Dr. Ramon Abarquez said.

The growing consciousness to live a healthy lifestyle highlighted the importance of choosing the right kind of diet. Today, Atkins and South Beach Diets are on top of mind. Just what are the Atkins and South Beach diets? How effective are these diets in reversing the diseases associated with obesity? Do they really work?

In a recent medical symposium sponsored by the Philippine Association on the Study of Overweight and Obesity (PASOO) in collaboration with Abbott Laboratories, Professor Luc Van Gaal addressed the importance and difference of these diets.

"Atkins and South Beach Diets may seem similar, but the South Beach diet is more than just a heart-friendly version of the Atkins diet. All the same, they have a lot in common." Prof. Van Gaal said.

Prof. Van Gaal stated that medical doctors created the South Beach and Atkins diets, which both restrict carbohydrates. Both diets have been the subject of best-selling books.

"Further, the difference boils down to two things," said Prof. Van Gaal, "the South Beach diet bans unhealthy fats but strongly promotes healthy ones and doesn't count grams of carbs. The Atkins diet seeks to change a person from a sugar-burning machine into a fat-burning machine."

While recognizing the benefits of Atkins diet, the professor said that the diet also poses risks because the high fat content associated with high protein, low carb diet, potentially increases cardiovascular risk. "The South Beach Diet offers a balance between 'good' carbs and fats," Prof. Van Gaal said. Comparing with the Atkins, Prof. Van Gaal said that SBD is a healthier choice".

In recognizing the benefits of these dietary regimens, Prof. Van Gaal also stressed that exercise and pharmacotherapy play an equally important role in ensuring effective weight loss management.

In several clinical trials using pharmacotherapy, Prof. Van Gaal stressed that patients on sibutramine showed significant reduction in obesity related condition such as high blood pressure, diabetes type 2, lipid disturbances, coronary heart disease and Osteoarthritis. "The sibutramine Trial of Obesity Reduction and Maintenance (STORM Trial) demonstrated that sibutramine, in combination with diet and exercise, was significantly effective in maintaining at least 80% of their initial weight loss," according to Prof. Van Gaal.

Sibutramine has been extensively studied. The most common side effects are mild to moderate and transient; these include headache (30%), drymouth (17.2), anorexia (13), constipation (11.5%), and insomnia (10.7%). Some patients may experience a rise in blood pressure and heart rate, so it is important that this medication should only be taken under the supervision of a physician.

Professor Van Gaal cautioned against losing weight drastically. He pointed out that weight loss should be mainly for its health benefits, and only secondary for its aesthetic value. He said that a 10% weight loss is a good and valid goal for weight reduction. This is already associated with improvement in heart disease, prevention of diabetes type 2, improvement in joint pains.

Treatment with sibutramine, in combination with diet and exercise is associated with a significant decrease in cardiovascular risk factors. Pharmacological treatment using Sibutramine can offer important additional support in weight loss, and leads consequently to health benefits. Reducing the weight and waist, says Van Gaal, reduces the risk.

Prof. Van Gaal lectures on the advantages of a doctor-prescribed weight reduction program

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LUKE Burgle at his First Communion

Marian Congress at Loob-Bunga Resettlement. The Holy Mass said by Fr. Danilo Carolino of St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in Tandang Sora, QC, capped the 9-day Novena Masses held in different Metro Manila churches starting at Manila Cathedral.

Officers of the Ina Poon Bato Foundation who attended the ceremonies were Nena Prieto, Judge Aurora Recina, Ofelia Huang, Minerva de Leon, Mary Rose Crisostomo and Angelica Cheng.

Members of the Ina Poon Bato chapters of Pasig and Quezon Cities came in full force, among them Dr. Purisima Barbosa, Beng Barbosa, Antonio and Perla Damian, Ben and Amparo Sison, Marites Chupangco, Ben and Remy Repollo, Modesta Manuel and Rowena Langeurgen.

Roselynn has been propagating the devotion to Ina for the past 24 years since Mount Pinatubo's eruption in 1991.

The pilgrim image of Ina Poon Bato from Zambales has visited nearly all dioceses in the Philippines, several states in America, European countries, including Italy, and the People's Republic of China. Ina Poon Bato continues to give hope, blessings and miracles.

Sonia Atabug, who is with the public relations department of the Philippine Women's University, said Tita Helen Benitez and president Amelou Benitez Reyes are devotees of Ina Poon Bato. They hold a procession of a replica image of the Virgin in Cavite City in December.

Chapel's anniversary

Twenty-one years ago, Nora Tadeo of Gerona, Tarlac, suffered from extreme depression and was confined in a hospital for one whole year. In 1984, Nora and her husband Pepe Tadeo heard of Leonor Martinez Ong, a healer known as Nanay Dapitan.

The healer venerates an image of Nuestra Señora de Dapitan in a chapel inside her house in Dapitan, Sampaloc.

Nanay Dapitan teaches couples who see her to forgive, change their life and cast away what is not pleasing to God. Through the prayers of Nanay Dapitan and sacrifices of the Tadeo couple, Nora was healed. The healer asked the couple to pray the Rosary seven times a day and go to seven churches everyday.

In thanksgiving, Nora built a chapel near the D'Double Gas Station in Barangay Magaspac, Gerona, Tarlac. Devotees will celebrate the third anniversary of the chapel on March 13.

Every Wednesday, the Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help is recited at 5 p.m inside the chapel followed by a Mass said by Fr. Jonas Agustin. At 5 p.m., March 9, Radio Maria in Tarlac airs the novena.

Exhibit

Registration of St. Joseph images for exhibit is scheduled March 8-9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Hospicio de San Jose on Ayala Bridge, Manila. The exhibit will open on March 10 at 5 p.m. A Holy Mass follows at 6 p.m.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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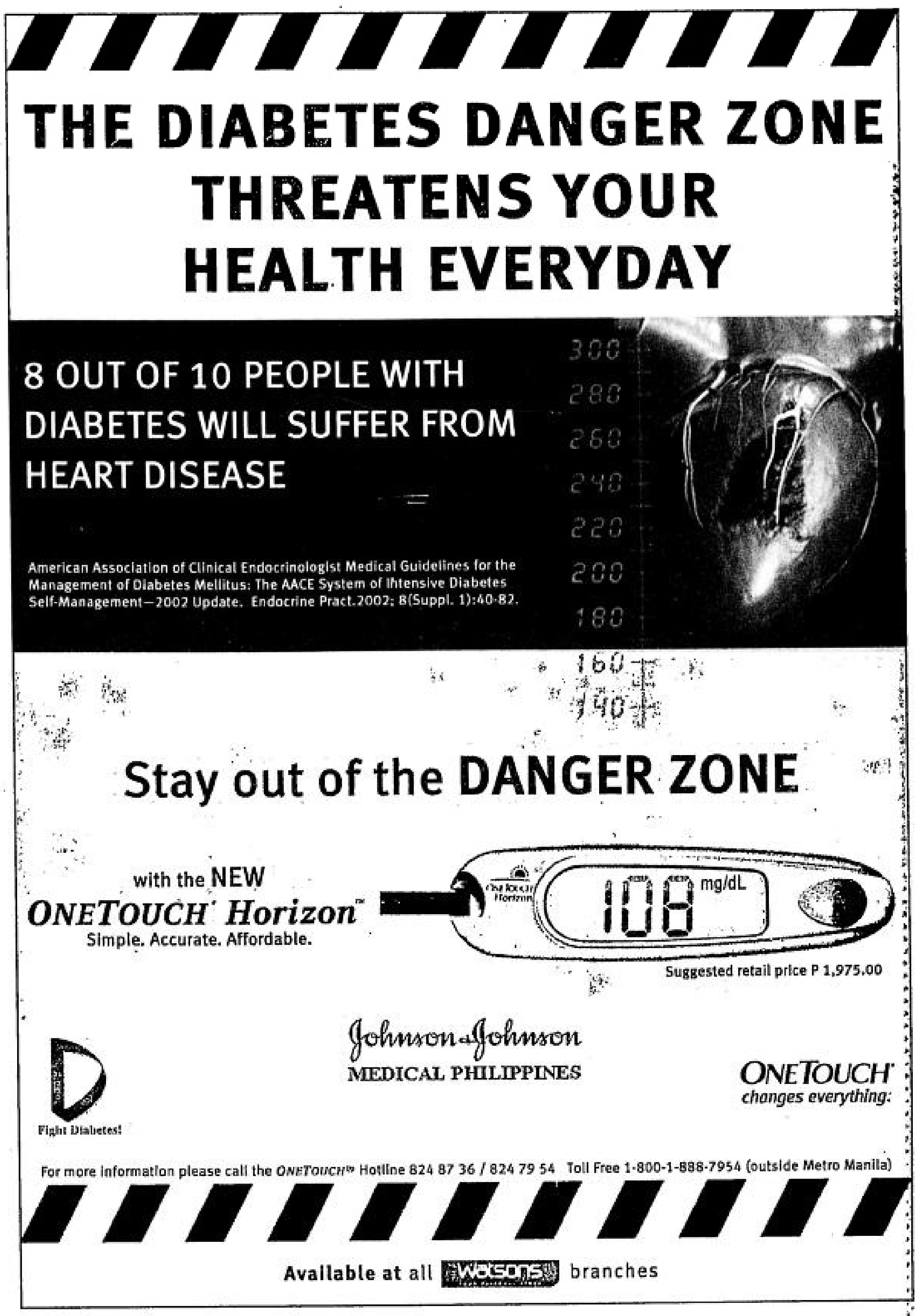
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Monterey Meatshop Directory: Las Piñas: R&E Building, Doña Manuela cor. Ilang-Ilang, Manuela Subd., CV Star St. Unit 1 Star Arcade Philam Life Village Pamplona, Lot 10 Block 16 BF Resort Drive corner Gemma Cruz Street, Beside Manayapa Village Gate, Naga Road. Makati: Citiland Tower, Pasong Tamo, Estrera Building, JP Rizal Street (fronting Makati City Hall), Evangelista cor. Gen. Lacuna Streets, Brgy. Bangkal. Malabon: G/F Star J Complex Gov. F. Sevilla Road Mandaluyong: Jeepney Park, EDSA Central Ave. EDSA Central, Manila: G/F Mabini Wing, Harrison Plaza, Malate, 1650 Laon Laan cor. Don Quijote St. Sampaloc, 1020 Singalong cor. San Andres Malate, 633 Carvajal St., Binondo, 1199 Masangkay St. Tondo. Marikina: 65 Bayanbayanan Ave., River City Arcade, Marikina Heights, Muntinlupa: Soldiers Hills, Putatan, Pasig: Unit F San Rafael Street corner West Capitol Drive, Parañaque: Magdalena Arcade Gatchalian Subdivision Sucat, Doña Juliana Bldg., Marcelo Green Village, Doña Soledad, Better Living, 2165 Narra Avenue United Hills, 99-A San Antonio Ave., San Antonio Valley I, Sucat, 20 Montserrat, Phase I BF Homes Subd., Sucat, Lopez-Sucat, Merville Supermarket Complex, Carmelite Street, Merville. Quezon City: 355 Katipunan Road Loyola Heights, Don Graciano Bldg., E. Rodriguez Ave., 9-C Examiner Street West Triangle, 355-D Luxury Townhomes, Culiat, T. Sora cor. Cenacle Dr. Interville 2, Ermin Garcia St., Cubao, 24-C Shorthorn Street, Proj. 8, 45 Anonas Ext. cor. Madasalin St., Sikatuna Village, 17 Don Antonio Arcade, Brgy. Holy Spirit, Filinvest Road I cor. Davao Drive, Batasan Hills, 59 Visayas Ave., Proj. 6, 40 Granada Street Brgy. Valencia New Manila, Phase 8 Blk M Farmers Market Araneta Center, Cubao, 102 Lively Bldg. Dahlia Avenue Fairview, Beside Tierra Bella Village Gate, Tandang Sora Avenue, G/F City Square Bldg. N.S. Amoranto Ave.(Retiro) cor. Cordillera St., Rizal: Melendrez Street corner Ortigas Ext. Palmera Homes 3, Taytay, 17 B. Manahan St. Ampid San Mateo, Market Road, Batong Dalig San Juan, Taytay, F. Manalo Street, Antipolo, Unishoppe Supermarket Quezon Avenue, Angono. San Juan: 38 Grant Street Little Baguio, 193 Jasper Building Wilson Street, Batangas: 47 Rizal cor. P.Burgos Sts., National Highway, Kumintang Ilaya, Stall # 3, V. Malabanan Street Lipa City, A. Mabini Street (Public Market Area) Tanauan, Cavite: 324 Nueno St., Imus, JP Rizal St., Silang, Dasmariñas Central Mkt., 103 Don Placido Campos Avenue, Dasmariñas, 72 National Road Binakayan, Kawit, Monterey Meatplant, Brgy. Langkaan, Dasmariñas, Laguna: 42 JP Rizal Street Cabuyao, 369 Sto. Domingo Road, Mayapa, Calamba, 161 N. Tobias St., Sta. Cruz, G. Reder St., Siniloan, Sta. Rosa Country Market, Sta. Rosa, Pacita Avenue, San Pedro, Goodwill Supermarket, National Highway,Sambat, Brgy. Binan, Quezon: 74 Quezon Avenue Gulang-gulang Lucena, 192 Arias Bldg. Merchant Street cor. Evangelista St. Bgy. IX, Lucena, Bulacan: El Camino Road, Sto. Nino Meycauyan, 42 Peso Street St. Michael Subdivision Meycauyan, Ilocos Norte: JP Rizal corner Llanes Sts., Ilocos Sur: 22 Leona Florentino Street Vigan, Tuguegarao: c/o Mantons Supermarket, Don Domingo Road, La Union: Cafe Esperanza, Gen.Luna St. cor. P.Torres St., San Fernando, Pampanga: 341 Sto. Rosario St., Angeles City, Fields Avenue, Balibago corner McArthur Hiway, Dolores San Fernando, Pangasinan: Nancayasan, Urdaneta, Brgy. Lucao Dagupan, Benguet: #1 Harrison Rd., Baguio City, Bacolod: 86 North Drive corner BS Aquino Drive, Iloilo: #7 Javellana Street, La Paz Plaza, La Paz, Cebu: Basak corner Pagsabungan Streets Mandaue City, 935-Q Salinas Dr., Lahug, 35 M. Velez Street Guadalupe, Unit I Preestar Arcade, Hernan Cortes Street, Mandaue City, F. Llamas Street, Punta Princesa Labangon, GLG Bldg. (across USC Talamban) Nasipit, Talamban, Estenzo Bldg.,M.L.Quezon Ave., Cabancalan, Mandaue, Dumaguete: La Residencia Almar Bldg. San Juan St. corner Rizal Blvd, Lee Plaza Mall Bagacay, Ormoc: 703 Osmeña Ext., Don Felipe Larrazabal Avenue, Tacloban: 173 Avenida Veteranos, Rizal corner P.Burgos Sts., Catbalogan: Caybalogan Shell Station, del Rosario Compound, Borongan: Units 889, Market Area, Limbaoan St., Tagbilaran: CPG North Avenue, Bukidnon: Judge Carillo cor. Tabios Streets Malaybalay, Cagayan de Oro: 75 Tomas Saco St. Macasandig, 68 RN Abejuela St., Divisoria, Puerto, National Hi-way Ilaya, Carmen, Iligan: 0124A Masonic Lodge Bldg., Quezon Ave. Ext., Palao, Davao: Matina Pangi Road, (beside Centro Supermarket), Ozamiz: Rizal Avenue corner Bonifacio Street, Surigao: Amat corner Servida Sts.

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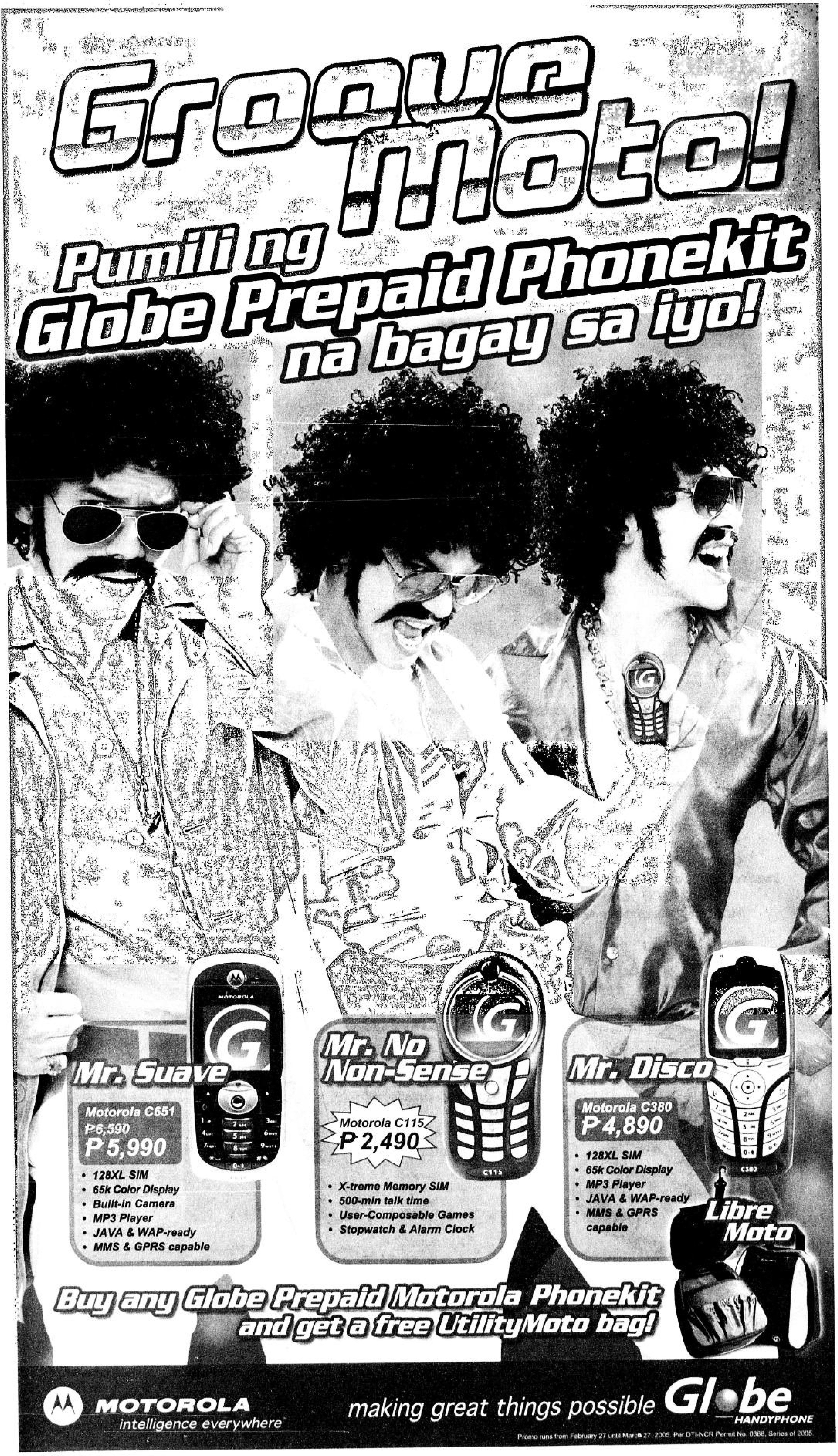

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Promo runs from February 27 until March 27, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0368, Series of 2005.

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005
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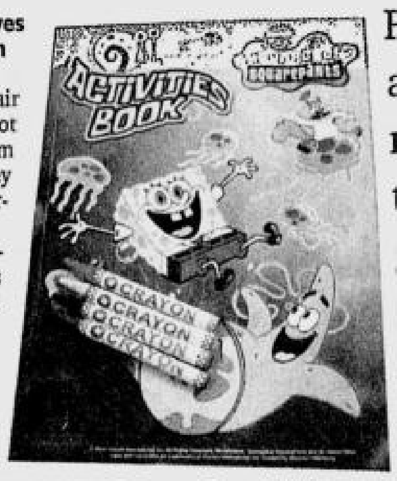
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

PATRICK Star stuffed toy

Sea-dwelling SpongeBob takes to the skies

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Betoy Johnson



SPONGEBOB SquarePants inflight activity book for young travelers

From toys and coloring materials to video games, SIA makes sure there's plenty to keep young travelers occupied

PARENTS traveling by air with their kids need not worry about keeping them occupied—that is if they are flying Singapore Airlines (SIA).

"Give them SpongeBob SquarePants!" says Eugene Lee, SIA general manager.

Yes, from the seas of Bikini Bottom, SpongeBob is going places with SIA to bring fun and joy to kids traveling miles away from home.

SpongeBob is the popular animated television star of Nickelodeon. He is a sea sponge with two buckteeth. Since the launch of the television series in 1999, the underwater misadventures of this optimistic and free-spirited resident of Bikini Bottom have attracted millions of loyal viewers every week.

So, starting this month, SIA, in partnership with Nickelodeon, is giving away SpongeBob inflight toys onboard all its flights. The toys replace the earlier Peanuts collectibles.

Exclusive designs

Young passengers aged 12 and below can have one of seven exclusively created SpongeBob collectibles to keep them busy throughout the journey. The set includes stuffed toys of SpongeBob and his best buddy, Patrick Starfish, slippers, cameras, wallets and activity books.

"Airplane travel can be exciting for any

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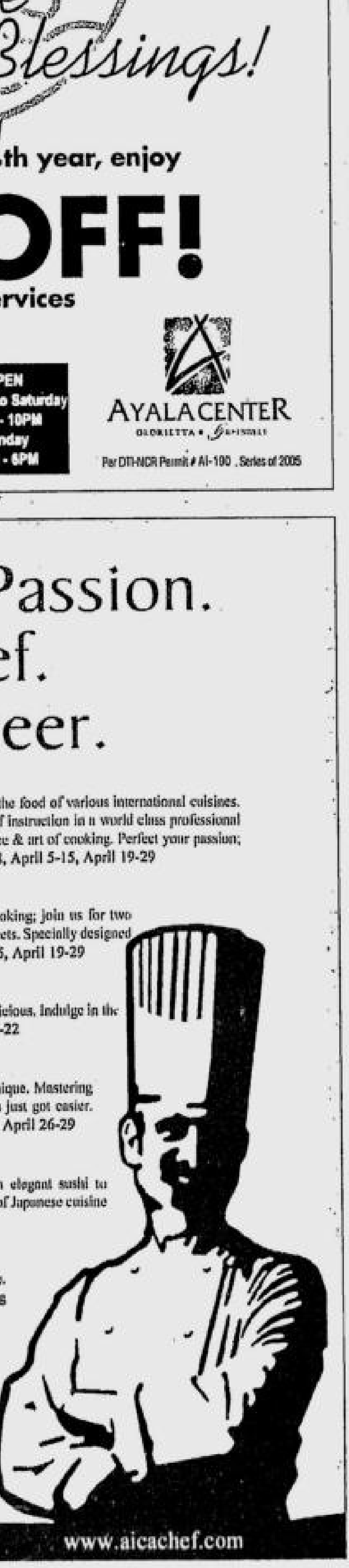

BASIC CULINARY SKILLS (ages 16 & up)
Master the basics of cooking in just two weeks and experience the food of various international cuisines. The Academy provides you with a completely hands-on method of instruction in a world class professional culinary setting. It's the best place to have fun and learn the science & art of cooking. Perfect your passion; transform yourself into a wizard in the kitchen. Dates: March 8-18, April 5-15, April 19-29

BASIC CULINARY SKILLS FOR KIDS (ages 7-12)
A fun & highly creative course for kids with a passion for cooking; join us for two weeks and make a variety of sandwiches, pastas, appetizers and sweets. Specially designed for kids, this course is as fun as it is educational. Dates: April 5-15, April 19-29

THAI CUISINE
Learn to cook Traditional Thai food that is both exciting and delicious. Indulge in the flavors & spices that make Thai food a global hit. Dates: April 19-22

DIM SUM & NOODLES
Dim sum, cold cuts and noodles require a lot of skill and technique. Mastering popular favorites for one of the world's oldest culinary traditions just got easier. Sign up for a cooking class that's both professional and fun. Date: April 26-29

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CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES & PRALINES
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Sea-dwelling SpongeBob takes to the skies

From page E1

child," notes Lee. "Depending on his or her age, it may be hard for a child to sit for long periods of time in the confined space of an airplane. That's why we offer quality kiddie entertainment."

As much as it can, SIA goes the extra mile to ensure junior travelers have a fun flight. From toys and coloring materials to video games, SIA makes sure there's plenty to keep them occupied.

To keep kids entertained throughout the flight, SIA's award-winning inflight system, KrisWorld, is also showing the much-anticipated "The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie" this month.

In every seat and every class, KrisWorld also makes available the blockbuster "The Incredibles." And, in April, young travelers can look forward to "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events."

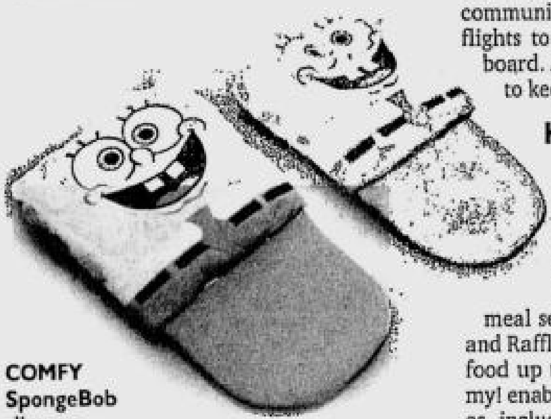
EUGENE Lee, SIA general manager, and Rita Dy, SIA manager for marketing communications and services, present SpongeBob SquarePants collectibles.

Other TV favorites

SIA flights also carry a wide selection of popular kiddie TV favorites such as "Hi-5," "Johnny Bravo" and "Samurai Jack" that can be played, paused and fast-forwarded using the "on demand" feature of KrisWorld. Familiar tunes from popular cartoons like "Little Mermaid" and "Elmo and Friends," recordings of the children's stories "Cinderella," "The Little Mermaid" and "Atlantis: The Lost Empire" will help young passengers sleep.

Energetic youngsters have over 48 interactive games (36 Nintendo and 12 PC games) to choose from. Every SIA seat has its own screen and remote control, allowing kids to play as much as they want without being disturbed or disturbing other passengers.

"We are delighted to present our SpongeBob entertainment to amuse our young flyers," says Rita Dy, SIA manager for marketing communications and services. "We want our flights to be fun with lots of adventures on board. And what better way to do this than to keep children well entertained."


COMFY SpongeBob slippers

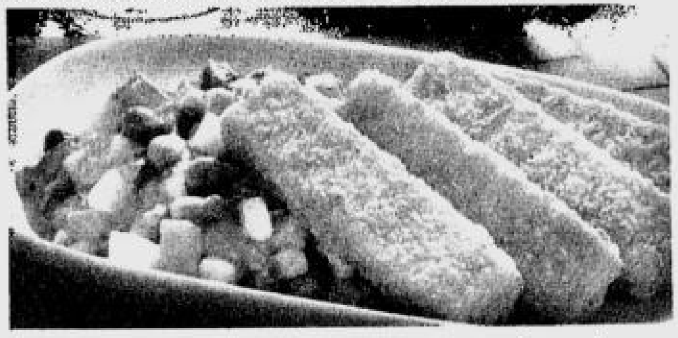
Kiddie meals

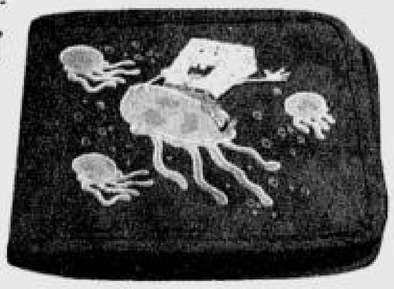
To complete the pampering, SIA young passengers can also enjoy their favorite meal with the launch of Yummy!, the airline's new book-the-cook service for kids.

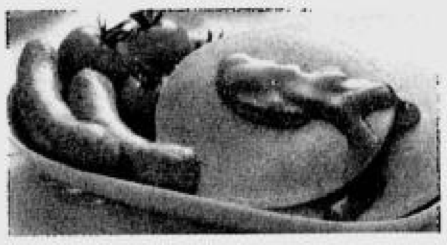
Like its adult equivalent, Yummy meal service lets young passengers in First and Raffles (business) Class to pre-order their food up to 24 hours before departure. Yummy! enables children to choose any of 12 dishes, including Sausages 'n' Pancakes, Chicken and Veggie Lasagna, Eggs Sunny Side-Up with Sausages and Hash Brown, Burger and Crisps, Spaghetti and Meatballs, Macaroni 'n' Cheese, Fish Fingers Battalion and Seafood Fried Rice.

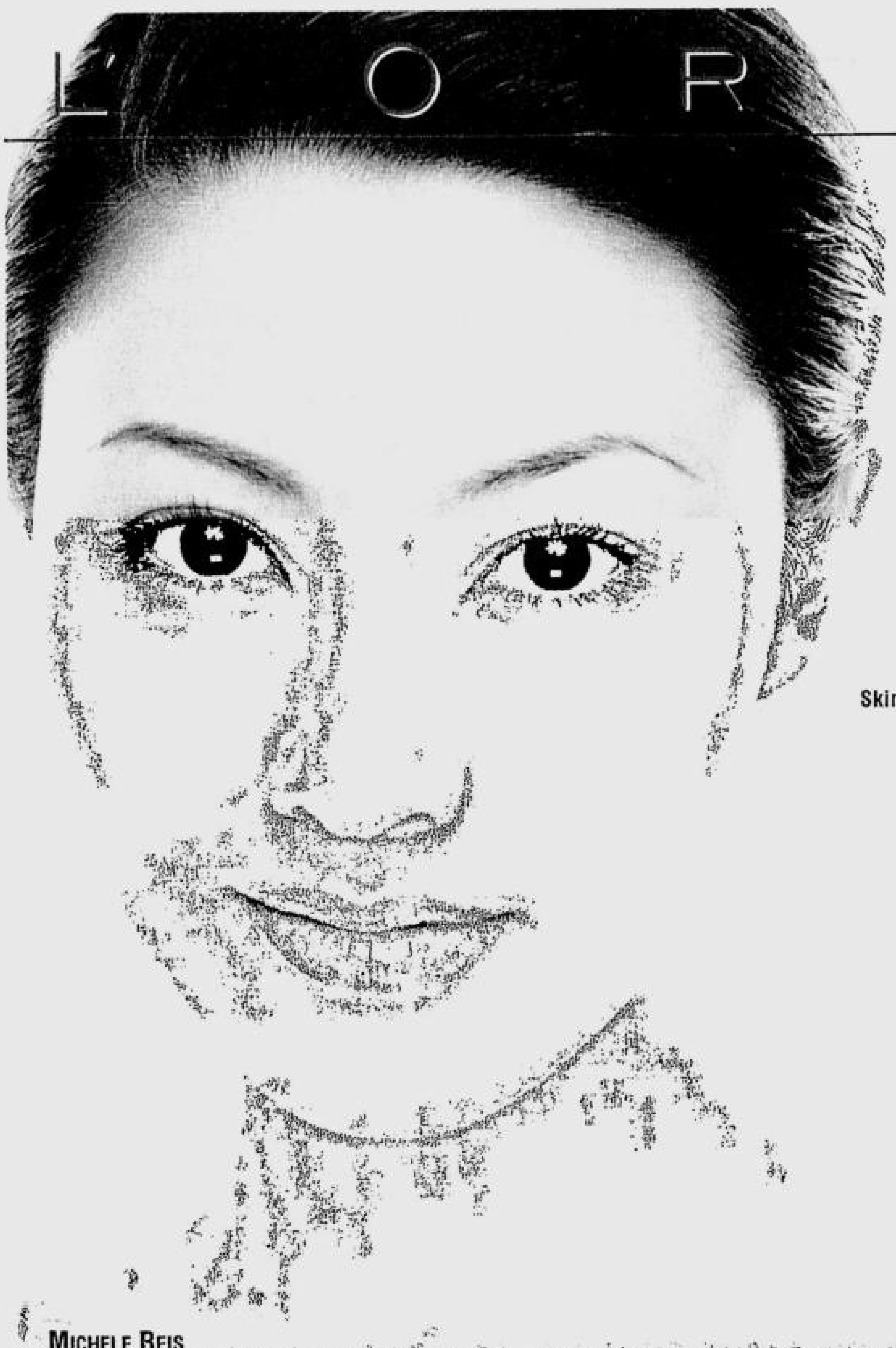
Dy says The Yummy menu was specially developed following an extensive customer research and feedback survey. Children of varying ages were invited to sample a variety of dishes and to pick what they liked best.

CAMERA for young hobbyists


YOUNG passengers can now enjoy their favorite meal even when miles away from home, like this Fish Finger Battalion served with diced vegetables and tartar sauce.


WALLET for boys and girls


SAUSAGES 'n' Pancakes, served with chicken chipolatas, cherry tomatoes and maple syrup



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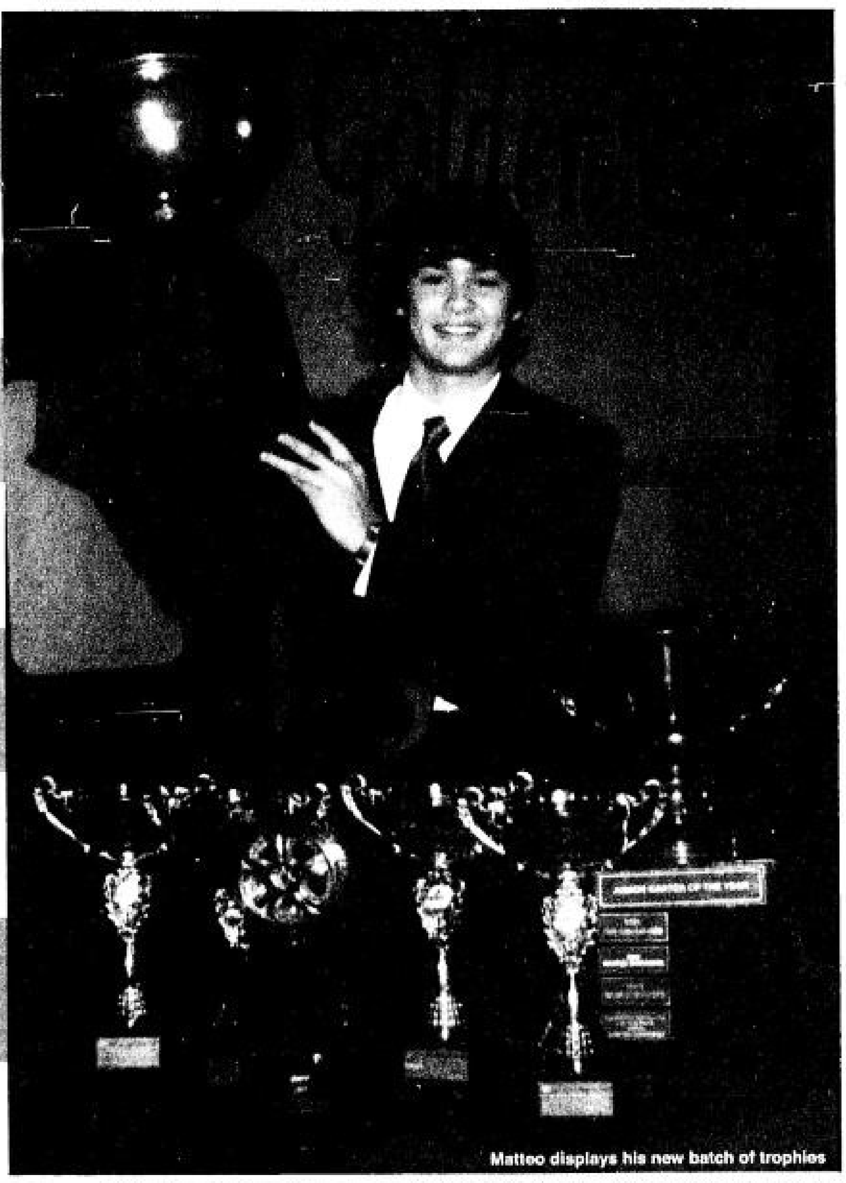
Wheel of Fortune

Addict Mobile Prepaid Congratulates
Matteo Guidicelli
for Winning at the 2005 Golden Wheel Awards


Matteo displays his new batch of trophies

Can someone so young be so successful so quickly? It seems that in the case of Matteo Guidicelli, the answer is a resounding yes. The 14-year old Addict Mobile Prepaid (AMP) endorser keeps turning heads not just for his dashing good looks, and renowned lineage (his maternal grandfather was the late Senate President Marcelo Fernan), but also for his ability on the racing circuit.

Matteo now sets his eyes on making a name for himself as he walked away with the most number of trophies at the recently concluded Golden Wheel Awards held at the Manila Polo Club. Given to the best drivers of the racing season, the Golden Wheel Awards ceremony saw Matteo win five trophies: Golden Wheel Award for Shell Karting, Rotax Max Junior and Open class champion of the Shell Superkarting Series, and both Junior Karter of the Year and Karter of the Year awards.

For the Filipino-Italian racing champion, 2004 was another triumphant year in his quest to become the best in his field. Gaining a much-needed sponsor in AMP, Matteo saw his star rise as one of the five endorsers of the dynamic new service of Addict Mobile. With P3 rates for person-to-person MMS, AMP offers the most affordable rates to the barkada. Always in the know as far as the latest parties and hottest trends, AMP lets you ride the new wave of downloadable services from the hippest prepaid service in town.

A party was recently held in Matteo's honor by two of his sponsors, AMP and Swatch. Executives from both companies, as well as Matteo's fellow endorsers and friends, came out to congratulate him at the Gift Gate Museum in Glorietta on his recent spate of awards.

As Matteo embarks on a new kart racing season in 2005, there seems to be no limit in sight as to how much better he can get. AMP is proud to be right behind the racing spitfire as he plows through the competition in the future. With Matteo's recent wins at the Golden Wheel Awards, we can clearly say that now, Matteo is in. And with AMP, so can you.

ADDICT MOBILE PREPAID

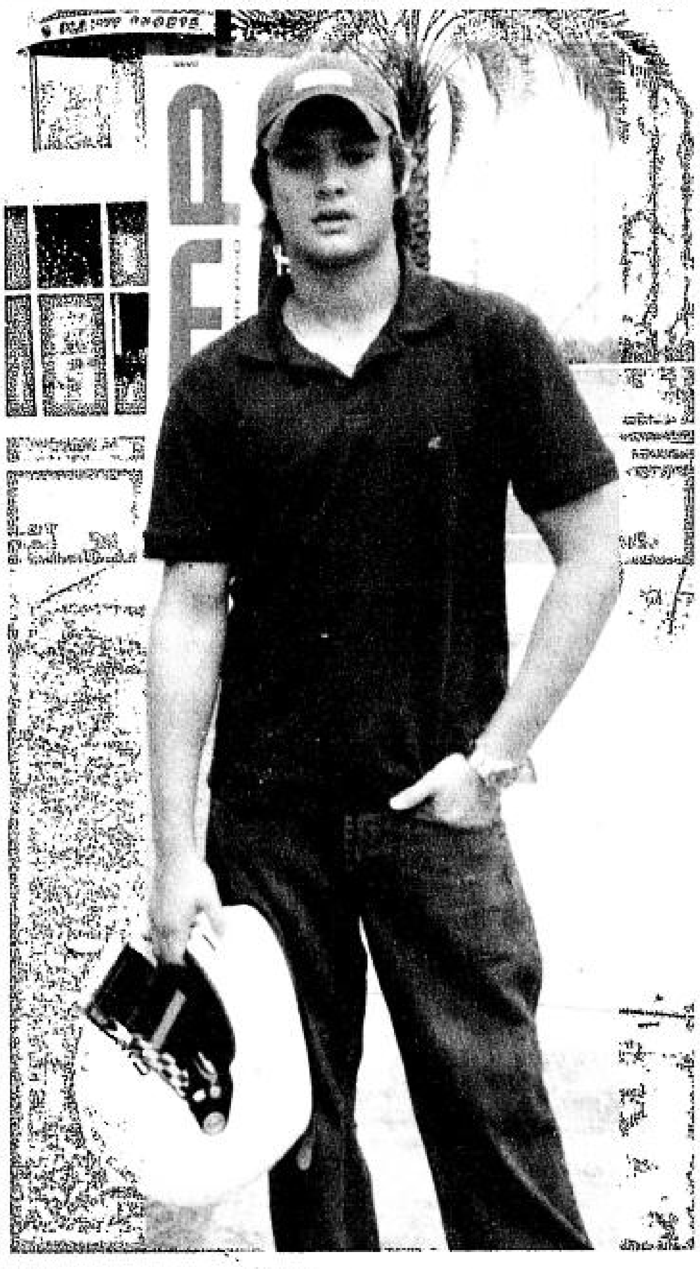
[illegible] display are Matteo's gear, [illegible] and race car

Tessa Valdes with her Lego vehicle entry

Virgie Ramos with Irene and Randy Francisco

SMART's [illegible] Isla and Julie Carceller with Segue bag designer, Mai Cojuangco-Zini

Standing L-R: Len Celaya, Iris Arenas, Ryland Geiger, Matteo Guidicelli, Tony Sarvi and Mica Romulo
Seated L-R: Giorgia Guidicelli, JanJan Gonzales, Jonas Eggeling and Maria Cruz



[illegible] Matteo Guidicelli, Maricel Soriano and [illegible]

[illegible] Cadness and Borgy Manotoc

Matteo's dad Gianluca, grandfather [illegible] and the man of the [illegible]

With Matteo are Italian Ambassador Umberto Colesanti and his wife Clara

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*Approved by DTI-NCR.

For BPI Express Credit: Classic/Burgundy, Blue MasterCard, Gold MasterCard, Edge and Mini Edge, promo period is from November 15, 2004 to April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3121, Series of 2004.

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VOLVO XC90 SUV. Prize for Petron-BPI Express Credit

For Petron-BPI Express Credit, promo period is from October 21, 2004 to April 30, 2005. See flyers for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2521, Series of 2004

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THE MANOBO
ascension to heaven /F2

Gardening without a garden

By Serapion S. Metilla
Contributor

GREEN TIPS

GARDENING is not only for those with a plot of land for the purpose. Anybody can do gardening even if he/she lives in an apartment, condominium or tenement.

All that's needed is love for plants, technical know-how on how to care for them and resourcefulness.

Container gardening is appropriate for indoors. You can grow plants in a pot, vase, dish, tray, box or any container light enough to be moved by one or two persons. They can be placed by the windows, along walls, in the porch or veranda, bathroom, kitchen, dining hall and living room.

You can put plants in pots or arrange them artistically as dish garden, bonsai, terrarium or mini waterfall tray landscape. Some of the plants you can use are rattan, ti, Dracaena sanderiana, palms, some ferns, African violets, begonias, Ficus, *sinamomo*, *kamuning aglaonemas*, Dracaena godseffiana "Florida beauty," Epicias, *syngoniums*, bromeliads, pothos, cacti and other succulents.

Among the hardy succulents you can use are the sansevierias, euphorbias, agaves, peperomias and haworthias.

Easy to rearrange

One advantage of container or mobile gardening is you can rearrange your plants as often as you want. And when you change residences, you can easily haul them with the rest of your stuff.

They are easy to maintain if you have the strong desire and TLC (tender loving care). Ask a reliable and experienced nursery person about plants that are hardy and shade-loving. Know what plants can tolerate being kept indoor for a while.

For plants to survive longer indoors, provide sufficient light. Fluorescent light usually used for aquariums is recommended. The bulb should be at least 1½ feet above the tip of the plant. It should be turned on at 6 a.m. and turned off at 10 p.m. daily without fail.

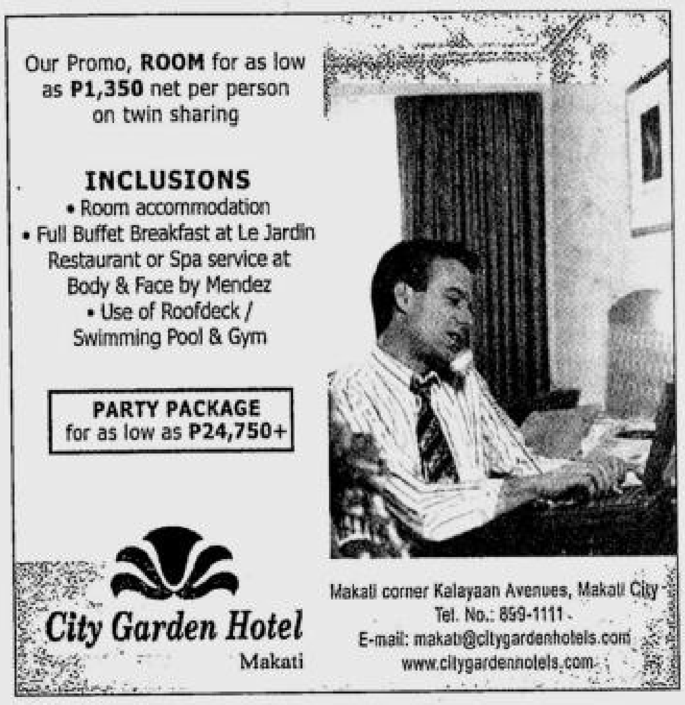
Keep roots constantly moist by applying water on the soil once every three days. Mist the leaves daily, preferably in the morning, to provide humidity around the plants.

Follow these tips: Know how many plants you need for the living room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom and bedroom. If you need 10 plants at a time, this means you will need 100 plants to rotate, with 10 plants in each set.

After the first week, the first set you brought indoors will have to be taken out and replaced with the next set of 10. The plants that you bring out should be placed in a greenhouse or "intensive care" area.

Set a routine for bringing plants in and out, say every Sunday. After the 10th rotation, you start all over again. The plants will not suffer so much because they stay indoors for only one week and are out for nine weeks.

For more information, call 9394593.



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The Manobo ascension to heaven

By Elena Maquiso
and Gilda Cordero-Fernando

(*Conclusion*)

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

VIII. THE 'SALIMBAL'

The meat imbued Agyu's followers with spiritual energy. With ease they climbed Kituved mountain where the *salimbal*, the heavenly vessel, would fetch them for the trip to heaven. Agyu instructed Lemena to have benches made for the people to sit on while waiting for the *salimbal*. Lemena merely got a twig, planted it on the ground and prayed to the Great Diwata. If it was indeed his will that they ascend, benches would be furnished since no human effort could produce so many in a short time. After a brief silence on the part of the people, hundreds of benches appeared all at once.

Agyu instructed the children to sit on the front row, the young girls on the second, the young men on the third, followed by the older women, and on the last row the older men. Mungan announced that she would not be coming with them. It was the will of the Highest Diwata that she stay behind to guide the future generations of chosen ones. Her abode would be the hills where the child *diwata*, who had shown her such mercy, dwelt.

Agyu and his brothers Pemulew, Lemena and Banlak, sisters Tabagka and Yambungan, then went up the rainbow ladder. They did this by following the steps of the *diwatas*. When they reached the first level, the porter of heaven, a *diwata* named Kukukay asked if anyone could serve as pulley for the *salimbal*'s chain. Pemulew could not because of his age. Agyu and Lemena feared that their hot tempers would melt the chain, besides neither of them had a waist as strong as Kukukay's. It would not break even if the chain passed over it as he would be pulling the heavy *salimbal* up himself. Kukukay agreed to stay on one condition. Since there was going to be an exchange of wives between earthlings and *diwatas*, as soon as they got to heaven, he should receive one as he was a bachelor. Agyu and his brothers agreed to the request.

The heavens opened with a loud noise. The *salimbal* with Agyu and his siblings in it was lowered by the hefty Kukukay. As soon as the *salimbal* touched the mountain top Agyu invited the people in. He warned that no one was to take in any earthly possession. Silence was to be observed through the journey. While the *salimbal* was slowly rising some young warriors complained about leaving their spears behind. They were thrown out of the door of the heavenly spaceship. Those wearing plumes became birds while those wearing bamboo breastplates became turtles. This was to remind the future generations not to be disobedient.

As the *salimbal* passed over Agyu's field of ripening *palay*, Agyu sighed and said, "What a waste, nobody will harvest my palay." He took the tiny *saliyao* bells off his belt and threw them into the air. They turned into *maya* birds. He said, "Go, enjoy the golden *palay* grains I left behind!"

IX. Lisngadan, the warrior

The skilled warrior Lisngadan was not with Agyu when the heavenly vessel lifted off. He had been assigned to the battle by the Highest Diwata. He was so loyal that he was still fighting on the battlefield even when his wife was close to giving birth. As Lisngadan was tying up the Manobo enemies, he happened to look up at the sky. He saw the *salimbal* floating above the trees. "Agyu!" he shouted, "Wait for me! You will have use for me in heaven!"

"My faithful Lisngadan," Agyu shouted back, "Save your wife. She was giving birth when we left. We fenced her in with *kampilan* swords to prevent the witches from getting at her.

Lisngadan ran as fast as he could, leaping over several hills. He searched the fort where his wife Daganluyan lay helplessly, the witches trying to reach in through the swords to claw her. Only one layer of *kampilan* was left standing. Lisngadan viciously speared dead all the witches he could reach.

With his kerchief Lisngadan made a small cloth hammock and placed the baby in it without cutting short its umbilical cord. "My child," he said "You are not destined to go with us. Instead you will go to the underworld and become the Lord of the Ibabagsok, the guardian spirits of growing plants.

Lisngadan then took his wife, who was bleeding profusely, up on his shoulder. After asking help from the Highest Diwata he stood on his shield and was magically lifted up to the *salimbal*. As he put down Daganluyan he noticed that he had a golden breastplate. The blood of his wife that had dripped on his chest had turned to gold.

There were seven *sempads* or platforms on which the *salimbal* would rest on its way up. On each platform was freshly cooked food provided by one of the kindly *diwatas*. The people only took tiny bits. When the *salimbal* had touched earth earlier, Puhak, a follower who was very fat, could not be accommodated. He was provided with a ladder that reached heaven. There was also cooked food on the rungs of Puhak's ladder. "This is the last chance I have to eat food like this," he thought greedily. "The moment we reach the first layer of heaven all I'll get is betelnut." So he ate every bit of food he encountered.

After a while Puhak looked around and asked one of the diwatas, "Where is the nearest *baratibit* (toilet)?" "There is none. Push him off!" cried another *diwata*. Puhak plummeted to earth, falling on the exact spot where his excreta was piled up like a hill.

At the midway point many spirits who dwelt in Mount Demoyog watched the progress of the *salimbal*. "Agyu is indeed lucky that the high and holy spirits are bringing him and his people up while we are just left behind on this mountain," they said enviously. They plotted to arrest the ascent of the *salimbal* with powerful prayers.

And indeed, the *salimbal* ceased moving. It remained suspended in the air as if strips of strong rattan and hemp were pulling it down. From the second layer of the sky, some *diwatas* looked down and saw the *salimbal* being pulled back by the prayers and envious desires of the powerful spirits of Mount Demoyog. "Please cease those prayers for you are going against the will of the holy ones up here," said the *diwatas*. "Do not be envious. The Great Diwata has promised that all of you will eventually be ascended."

After these words a knot seemed to have been untied. The prayers which had stopped the *salimbal* ceased—and the heavenly vessel continued to move upwards until it reached the portal of heaven. Before the ship could enter, however, it stopped again. "The *salimbal* is too heavy," said the perspiring Kukukay. "I cannot pull it up anymore. I shall jump to the other side of heaven and try to solve the problem."

Kukukay climbed over the ridge of heaven. To show how strongly Kukukay had been pulling the chain, the people saw it tearing a bit of the sky through which the *salimbal* could fit. A part of heaven was destroyed.

X. The broken promise

At the threshold, the earthlings were holding their mates in preparation for the exchange of wives. When they entered the portals, however, the Manobos were disappointed to discover that the female *diwatas* had no eyebrows and therefore less attractive than their own wives. The male *diwatas*, on the other hand, were very much attracted to the earthling women who had such dark and bushy eyebrows.

While the wife swapping was going on Kukukay was busy rolling up the chain of the *salimbal*. It took a long time as it was the length of the earth to the sky. When he was finally able to join the rest, all the earthly women had been taken. All, that is, except Daganluyan because Lisngadan, who loved his wife, would not abide by the agreement.

Since Kukukay was a very powerful *diwata* he quickly cut the hair of Daganluyan which he spread on the ground. It became 10 Daganluyans. "Choose the most beautiful one," he told Lisngadan. "After all the hardship I went through I deserve the original."

Lisngadan, who himself was a *baylan*, a heavenly mediator, became very angry. "How can it be that my own wife is being bartered to me for the wife produced from her own hair?" He was so enraged that he started a war in heaven.

Lisngadan was fearless in fighting to keep his wife. The most difficult thing was that whomever he killed with his sharp *balaraw* knife could not be revived. "You *diwatas* in heaven, protect yourselves, for I am determined to kill you all!" he shouted.

The *diwatas* got together and plotted to attack Lisngadan all at the same time. Secretly they planned to substitute his bloodied weapon, which was destroying them, with another. Upon getting wind of this, Lisngadan secretly bit the tip of his *balaraw*. "Where is the sword you are going to exchange with mine?" he said. They handed him the weapon. Immediately he fitted the tip of his own blade to the new weapon. As a result whomever he killed still could not be revived.

Later on Lisngadan said, "Give me back my *balaraw* so that we can sit down and settle this case amicably. Otherwise all of you will be finished. As the weapon was returned, he attached its true tip. Then he said, "This disgusts me. I am going back to earth."

With Daganluyan he descended on Mount Kalatungan. He said, "We are going to the underworld where our child who has become the Lord of the Ibabagsuk dwells. We have missed him for a long time."

And so in heaven the promise to poor Kukukay remained unfulfilled.

In desperation, Agyu took hold of a heavenly maiden who immediately became human flesh. He got her organ and gave it to Kukukay who then molded it into a beautiful and graceful woman. But the creature had no bones and could not sit or stand. Kukukay was mad. "You are just making fun of me. Wait and see." Thereupon the disappointed *diwata* planted a bamboo tree at the portal of heaven which instantly grew and barred the opening, its roots holding steadfastly on to the surface of heaven. "Henceforth," Kukukay said, "no living human being shall be allowed to enter heaven without having to die first." The huge *diwata* then yawned and stretched himself across the portal where, it is said, he is slumbering still.

Islands and landfill

Conclusion

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

OTHER cities or even provinces probably wish they have many things that Puerto Princesa, Palawan's capital city, has.

For one thing, the people know a good thing when they see it. In this case, the clean and green life that their government has encouraged them to lead. They have taken those directives so much to heart and live them from day to day, that now their city is considered the country's cleanest and greenest. Local and international awards heaped on them through the years attest to this.

The government's priorities here are the establishment of infrastructures and control mechanisms to assure peace and order to get its projects going. Schools, roads, electricity and institutions have been provided to fill the people's needs.

There is no shortage of schools-both public and private. The streets are all paved, well-lit and, best of all, clean. The city has its own power plant that serves even some areas outside Puerto. Plans are said to be underway to extend the service with the cooperation of Napocor.

At present, the city's two main targets are tourism and agriculture. Initially, they will focus on local tourism, promoting itself internationally only when it feels ready for a more massive influx of visitors.

Agriculture is considered essential in view of the city's ban on logging and mining. It is also expected that self-sufficiency in food production will lead to revenue-earning exports and better means of livelihood.

Sanitary landfill

To further push its cleanliness and environment-friendly efforts, Puerto Princesa is constructing a sanitary landfill, said to be the first of its kind in the country, in Barangay Sta. Lourdes, some distance away from the city center. Expected to be usable for 50 years, it is 90 percent completed, says Mayor Edward S. Hagedorn, and will be operational by the third quarter of this year.

The plan provides for easy transfer to an adjacent landfill once the first is filled to capacity. The landfill has a concrete base to protect the soil underneath from contamination with toxic substances. The garbage is covered by a plastic and sand mix to prevent its being blown away.

Provisions are being made for leachates to undergo waste water treatment. The place will not look drab and desert-like as a park with lots of greens will be developed around it.

Eco-tourism

Another priority, eco-tourism, occupies the government's and people's attention. A lot of effort is being put in creating destinations to enhance the city's image as "Eco-Tourism Capital of the Philippines." These efforts were spurred by the declaration of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco) of Puerto Princesa's Subterranean River as "World Heritage Site" in 1999.

A visit to the site is bound to inspire a feel for exploration, especially of the different islets that dot the sea off Puerto Princesa's long coastline. Some of the islets, we are told, disappear during high tide or heavy rain. The others are used as diving centers or resorts or even Bantay Dagat spots. The isles have names like Snake, Bat, Cañon and Las Palmas.

Next to underwater diving, a tour of the islets on a speedboat is probably the most exciting thing. You hold your breath as you hold on to your seat. This is exercise enough, guaranteed to ease stiff necks and flex muscles like no treadmill or stationary bike can.

It may not exactly be eco-tourism in the purest sense of the term. Maybe a change of terminology is needed, like Sea Gym or Speedboat Stretch.

There is so much else to this green city, but we will try to cover those in future issues.

'Greening' finance people

Environmentalism cannot be confined to wildlife conservationists and nature lovers alone. Professionals must get into the act, too.

The financial sector, being an important cog in this country's economic development, must have a "green" agenda for more feasible systems and practices. There is need, for instance, to address such matters as "environmental due diligence," the investigation of environmental practices of borrowers.

To clarify the importance of this and other related matters, the Asia Pacific Roundtable for Sustainable Consumption and Production (APRSCP) is inviting bankers and financiers to a forum on "The Greening of the Financial Sector," 9 a.m.-4 p.m., March 11, at Dusit Hotel.

Speakers will include Ambassador Jesus Tambunting, chair of Planters Bank; Margarito Teves, president of Landbank; and Ray David, president of the Development Bank of the Philippines. Workshop groups will meet after lunch. Co-sponsoring the forum is the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP).

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@yahoo.com.

Husband is 'lost at sea'

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR Emily,

This is about my friend. She is married to a seaman and they have one kid. It's been more than two years since her husband left for abroad. Though she receives her monthly allotment from his company, he hasn't called or written to her since. She wants to get in touch with him but even the agency that got him his job can't track him down. All they can say is he is at sea. What can my friend do?

JASMIN

Someone somewhere is lying to her or she is probably being given the run around for a reason. Can't she ask his parents or siblings for his whereabouts? There must be at least one human being in this whole wide world she can call or write to if there's really an emergency.

But if there's really no urgency and it's just whimsy, what is eating your friend anyway? Is she being troubled by a rumor, a fear or something else? Did the husband break a promise to her? Was he supposed to call her once in a while, weekly, monthly? Though renewable, aren't the contracts of seamen good only for two years? Why doesn't she keep calm and wait for him to come home?

Your friend doesn't seem to have been married a long time and should still be in the "honeymoon period" yet, amazingly, her husband has not sent her one postcard from any of his ports of call. Not one? Isn't he excited to show his wife a picture of a new country he is visiting, like some thoughtful husbands? Didn't he see land within the two years he has been at sea? Something is fishy here. And that's not the result of eating too much fish!

Not quite happily married

I am a happily married woman in her 40s, and I have an almost-perfect husband of 15 years. We love and adore each other greatly. We are happy being together and we have maintained our "romance" until now. I've always been strong and didn't expect to be a victim of love after marriage.

My problem started in 2003 when I met this man and fell in love with him at first sight. I knew it was wrong but I couldn't control my feelings. I think he feels the same way. I consider myself a decent woman who has kept her emotions under control.

Our attraction was so strong it made me sleepless, restless, mentally disturbed. Avoiding this man made me so sick I had to see a doctor, who diagnosed me as "stressed."

This went on for more than a year. Until now I still feel attracted to him, but I told myself that marriage was a commitment and this was my principle. When I couldn't manage it anymore, I took the risk and told my husband. He understood and asked how he could help.

My husband is a very secure person. It helped a little bit and and I felt less guilty—guilty of being in love with somebody else. He knows I am a woman of principle and will never cheat on him. We even talk about the other guy sometimes.

If I get into a relationship with him do you think he would be serious with me assuming my husband dies? I told myself this man would not respect me and might not even want to marry me if that happened because he would think I'd do the same and cheat on him.

The best thing is to avoid making things more complicated. It is difficult but it is possible. I still suffer until now. I think I will win.

M.

You are in an idyllic marriage. You have a loving and secure husband who adores you, yet you are not content with that! A million other women would love to be in your shoes. So many women are in miserable and heartbreaking relationships that they're probably wondering how you can squander something beautiful!

But it happens. Falling in love outside of marriage infests the best of relationships. It's called being human.

To worry whether this guy you are crazy in love with will take you seriously if you suddenly become free... and to think he might be concerned that you might also cheat on him do not augur well for any relationship you might have with him.

To think he will not accept you for what you are is passing a non-loving judgment on him. Do you know something you didn't write me about? Such scenarios in your mind would only mean you are not comfortable with him, and you don't have a lot of trust in his feelings for you.

There's not much love there, as I see from my blurry rose-colored glasses. If you did, you'd throw all caution to the wind and go for broke. You both will tell the world to buzz-off and let you two be—now or later.

Methinks you just got bored from the pleasantly smooth sailing all these 15 years. Why not? You were a pampered, adored wife who took for granted a feast of a marriage. And this thirst for adventure kicked in when you locked eyeballs with this guy.

The intensity may have felt like love but, honestly, can we downgrade it to infatuation or a terrific crush considering that no tsunami did or will happen? Sure you are drenched with guilt. Sure you're stressed enough to see a doctor.

How can you not be when this sweetheart of a husband is trying to give you all the support he can muster, given the awkwardness of the moment? He is standing by you, for better or for worse... He probably knows something you don't, and that this hiccup in your marriage will blow over in good time.

Play your cards well. Ever heard of the phrase, "from the frying pan to the fire?"

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms. Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday to Friday on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

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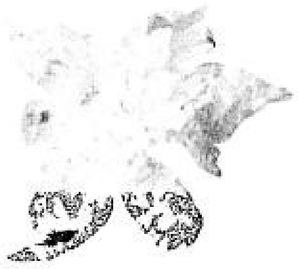
Baguio's Panagbenga festival

Time to say, "I Love Philippines"



With more than seven thousand islands to choose from, the Philippines is one of the most interesting tourist spots in the world. It boasts of beautiful destinations, colorful fiestas, rich and varied cuisine, distinctive crafts, friendly and hospitable people, and a fascinating, multi-faceted culture. From every region, travelers who come and explore the islands can't help but say "WOW".

The Wealth of Wonders (WOW) the Philippines has to offer is endless, and this 2005 the Department of Tourism (DOT) together with SMART Communications, Inc., led by Secretary Joseph Ace Durano, PLDT and SMART Chairman Manuel Pangilinan, and SMART PCMSD Head Boy Martirez, is embarking on a journey that will make visitors of the country not only say "WOW" but "I Love Philippines!"

This major new campaign will boost local interest in tourism and spur international arrivals. Launched last February 18 at the Westin Philippine Plaza, "I Love Philippines, Byahe Na!" is an attempt to rekindle our love of country and invite overseas visitors to experience the splendor of the islands. Spearheaded by DOT to promote tourism as a means of accelerating economic growth, the campaign will build on the success of WOW Philippines, which was started by former DOT Secretary and now Senator Richard Gordon.

From the private sector, SMART is leading efforts to enlist even more support for the campaign. As the country's leading service provider, it will offer a Mobile Travel Portal, which will give subscribers access to descriptions and images of priority destinations. SMART will also provide a tourism directory for international visitors that will enable them to obtain travel data wirelessly and conveniently. As Secretary Ace Durano put it, "The DOT is lucky enough to find SMART and SMART enough to have chosen them for this endeavor."

As a Filipino citizen proud of his country and heritage, Boy Martirez explains that it is this burning passion we all share for our country that makes it only natural for us to work together by doing our part in making it a better place. Indeed, it is high time to say "I Love Philippines!"

WOWPHILIPPINES

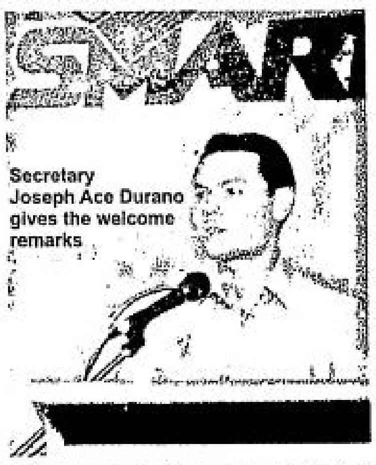
I ♥ PHILIPPINES

Byahe Na!

DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

Ricky Lim of SM, Ed Chua of Shell Philippines, S[illegible] Ace Durano, Regine Velasquez, Boy Martirez of SMART, Ernesto Tanmantiong of Jollibee, Rafael Besa of [illegible] Rene Nieva of Perceptions

DOT spearheads a new tourism campaign for 2005



Secretary Joseph Ace Durano gives the welcome remarks

The "I Love Philippines, [illegible]" Launch at the Westin Philippine Plaza

Boy Martirez, PCMSD Head, expounds on SMART's commitmentto tourism

Regine Velasquez sings the campaign song

A sample DOT-SMART booth

Ernesto Tanmantiong, Inez Reyes, Ricky Lim, Boy Martirez, Annie Garcia, Chelo Monasterio, Aida dela Cruz, Julie Carceller, and Ricky Isla

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PHOTOS: RAFFY LERMA

SOCORRO C. RAMOS

National treasure

PLAYTIME
By the Staff

THE GENERATIONS of Filipinos who have known only one bookstore all their lives—and that's the National Book Store—will be the least bit surprised to hear that 82-year-old Socorro Ramos has won the prestigious Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award.

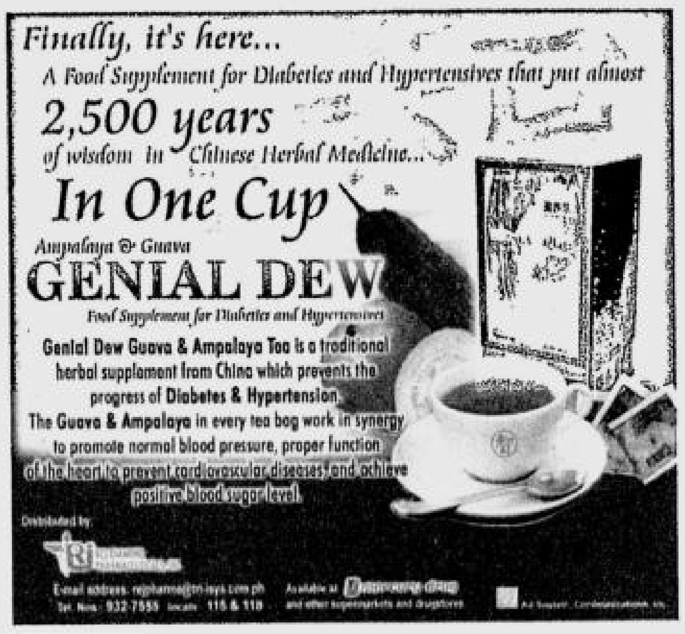
For them, National Book Store is information central, book paradise and supplies plaza all rolled into one familiar haunt. And the woman who founded it with her husband some 60 odd years ago is in and of herself a national treasure.

Nanay Coring and her bookstore have won one too many awards for outstanding achievements in publishing, retailing and community involvement over the years. But this year, she did even better. Not only did she receive the E&Y plum award, she was also named Woman Entrepreneur of the Year.

The founder and chair of National Book Store believes in traditional values such as hard work, frugality and familial duty. Born to a mother from Guagua, Pampanga, and a father from Sta. Cruz, Laguna, Nanay Coring is the fifth of six siblings. The family was poor, but it had solidarity. As a young girl, Coring spent her summers sorting moldy cigarettes, wrapping bubble gum, sewing shirt buttons, even waitressing to earn money for her school needs.

At 18, she started working as a salesgirl in Goodwill Bookstore, which was owned by her older brother and his wife. Marriage to her sister-in-law's brother, José Ramos, further deepened her interest in the book-selling business.

NATIONAL/ G2



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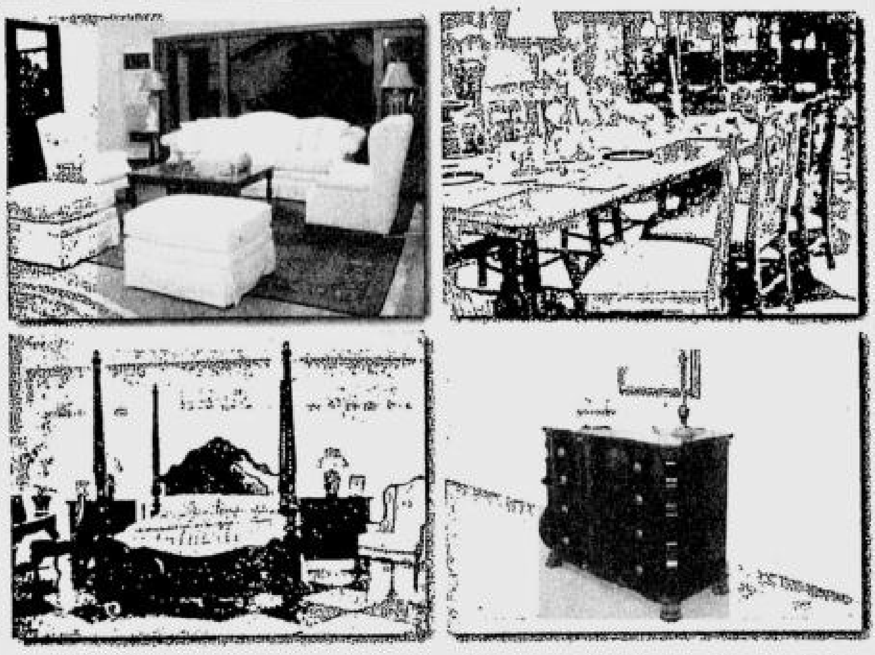

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Ngiting hanggang tenga, ngayon mo muling madarama.
Feeling ay ibang-iba, bagong-bago ang saya!
SuperFerry
happy trip ☺

National treasure

From page G1

With her husband, she opened the first National in Escolta. It was nothing but a stall, but from such humble origins, NBS has grown nonstop and is fast living up to its name with to date 72 branches nationwide.

Undaunted by a lack of college education and a firm believer that if you work hard enough you can get anything you want, Nanay Coring bested two other rivals for the license to distribute Hallmark greetings cards 30 years ago, and acquired permits from publishing giants McGraw Hill, Prentice Hall and Addison-Wesley to reprint academic books on cheaper newsprint.

But her biggest coup is in keeping her family actively involved in the business, from her twin sons Alfred and Benjamin and her daughter Cecile to her grandchildren (she has 9, and 7 great grandkids) .

She thinks it's a long shot for a Filipino to be picked as World Entrepreneur of the Year in May in Monaco for two consecutive years (Jollibee's Tony Tan Caktiong bagged it last year). But if she talks to the Monte Carlo crowd the way she talked to the Lifestyle staff during this Playtime, she is sure to win their hearts. Read on and get to know this smart, funny, down-to-earth but super savvy businesswoman.

ERNST & YOUNG
ENTREPRENEUR
OF THE YEAR

SOCORRO Ramos with her Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, Woman Entrepreneur and finalist trophies designed by Impy Pilapil

RAFFY LERMA

WITH HER CHILDREN, twins Alfred and Benjamin and daughter Cecile, all of whom, she says, are voracious readers.

This is the second year of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year award and you won it. Did you think you would win?

I did not think it would be me kasi alam ko matanda na ako. Ang gagaling ng mga kalaban. No kidding. Ang mga kalaban ko mga CEO, CEE, COE (laughter)... puro ganun! Talagang nag-aral sila. May nag-aral na mag-PhD. Ang gagaling nila mag-English. (Laughter)

Hindi naman ho sa English nakukuha yan. So when your name was announced how did it feel?

Aba eh nung in-announce pa nga hindi ko narinig kasi yung mga katabi ko—mga taga SGV lahat—natapos na silang kumain at hindi ginalaw ang manok. Ako rin kasi ang daming ulam. Sabi ko, "Tapos na kayo? Pwede ba mahingi yung manok ibibigay ko sa tsuper kasi nakalimutan kong bigyan ng pera pang dinner." (Laughter) Aba, tuwang-tuwa naman sila. Yung sa tabi ko sabi sa 'kin, "Tinatawag na yung pangalan nyo!" Nagulat ako, hindi ko akalain. I wondered if they made a mistake. (Laughter)

What do you think is the reason you won?

That's a good question. I was thinking, the whole night. Siguro yung mga ginawa kong reprinting ng mga college textbooks noon na newsprint lang ang papel. It brought the price down by 70 percent. Malaking bagay yun! Nobody mentioned why they chose me. Pero sa isip ko, baka yun kasi parang natulungan mo yung mga estudyante na magkaroon ng libro.

But you have been doing that for so long. That makes you not just Entrepreneur of the Year but Entrepreneur of Many Generations.

Alam mo, that started when President [Ferdinand] Marcos issued Presidential Decree no. 285. We were able to reprint American or other imported books as long as we paid royalty, which was two percent of the US price. Let's say you reprinted 2,000 copies but sold only 1,500, you will pay royalty for 1,500 copies.

Wouldn't the publishers have made a lot more money if you bought directly from them instead of reprinting their books?

Well, if we did that, imbes na makabenta ng 1,500 copies, baka 200 lang kasi mahal.

If a school says these are the books that our students must use next school year, how soon can you reprint them?

Ah, hihingi muna tayo ng permit. There are publishers' representatives here in Manila. The major book publishers have representatives. And then, syempre, kakilala ka na, kaibigan ka na and they also look if, you know, it's going to be a good deal for them.

Are you able to bring the price down because you own the printing press that reprints the books?

Sometimes hindi rin makaya ng printing press namin sa dami kaya we farm out sa iba. We use at least 17 printers. To bring the price down, you have to print at least 2,000 copies of a book.

Of your total sales at National, how much is from textbooks?

Ngayon? Forty percent. The rest is from school supplies, fiction and non-fiction book, at iba pa.

What is the secret of your success?

Hard work at saka you have to have patience, you must persevere and you have to take a little risk. Sometimes, you will reprint a book pero hindi gagamitin kasi kung minsan yung professor biglang nagpunta ng [United] States.

But there are people out there who will say, "Hardworking naman ako why am not succeeding?"

You should be focused and, not only that, you should know your business, magmula sa umpisa hanggang sa huli. Kaya ako palagi sa tindahan eh.

Do you visit your stores every day?

Noon, oo, kasi you can talk to customers, you can see what they're looking for. You know, from there you can assess ano ba ang dapat gawin. Hindi mo maiintindihan hangga't hindi nandun ka.

When did you stop going to the store every day?

Nito na lang siguro mga 79 na ako. Pumupunta-punta pa rin naman ako ngayon.

You mean you make surprise visits?

Ay, yon! Naghahanap ako ng mali (laughter). Yung mga style na nakakalat lang yung mga notebook, hindi pa nila maiayos. Ay, pagdating ko, inaayos ko yun mga notebooks eh. Two, three minutes tapos eh. Bakit hindi nila maayos agad? (Laughter)

Do your employees know you, considering you have 72 stores?

Yes, because we have meetings. Nung araw nga alam ko lahat ng empleyado namin pati sa bodega. I would teach them how to sell. Ngayon hindi ko na memoryado lahat.

How much capital did you first put into your business?

Well, ako may P11. Si Mr. Ramos may P200. Mas mayaman si Mr. Ramos sa akin eh. (Laughter) So P211. Nakapardible yan sa bulsa ko! That was wartime. Pero noon P2 to $1 lang.

What did you sell at first?

Kasi nung Japanese time, books were censored, anything about democracy, about the US. Pagbalik yung makapal na ganyan (gestures) na American History, ganun na lang kanipis! Paano ginupit nang ginupit. So imbes na magbenta kami ng libro, tinago na lang muna namin. Nagtinda na lang kami ng notebooks, ballpens... yung mga Hapon naghahanap ng writing paper.

Nagtinda ho kayo ng papel de hapon? (Laughter) Kayo po ba nag-umpisa nun?

Bago pa dumating yung mga Hapon, papel de hapon na yun (laughs)!

Ano sa tingin nyo bakit nagtagal kayo ng ganito at yung ibang bookstores nagsara?

Siguro they have found other more lucrative businesses. Hindi ko masabi.

IN FILIPINIANA attire on her birthday one year, Nanay Coring poses amidst books and cards in the family home that doubled as warehouse.

WITH FAMILY friend, Msgr. Manny Gabriel. Nanay Coring loves to sing and her favorite song is "Fascination."

Nahiya naman akong magtanong. (Laughter)

Readers will be interested to know how you trained your grandchildren kasi usually pagdating sa mga apo nasisira na yung negosyo.

Nandudoon sila sa tindahan lagi, pati sa opisina. Habang nandun sila, syempre, ituturo mo. At sabi ko, "Kailangan magtrabaho kayo. Hindi naman ako buhay habang panahon. Maswerte kayo, you only have to continue it, you don't have to struggle anymore." At ang importante ay pinaaral mo silang mabuti para maintindihan ang buhay.

How were you able to convince your sons and your daughter to go into the business?

Alam mo siguro it's influence of the environment. Nakikita nila sa bahay namin puro libro, puro notebooks, puro school supplies. At saka wala kaming ibang pinag-usapan kundi libro, school supplies. Ang aming bahay walang sala, ang mga kahon magmula sa baba, ang bakante lang bedroom. Kasi nung unang-una pa lang, we used the whole house for bodega. Syempre, if you're near those things, you will be influenced by the environment.

But you can also rebel against it...

Pwede rin... Pirmi kong sinasabing, "Pag-aralan nyo ito kasi pagdating ng oras, mapupunta rin ito sa inyo. Kailangan pag-aralan ninyo. Iyon, nagkakaha sila, nagche-check ng invoice.

Lahat ng klaseng trabaho pinagagawa ninyo sa kanila?

Correct. At, tapos, kung minsan may delivery kami ng Christmas cards sa umaga, pati yung mga classmates nilang nagpupunta sa bahay, "Ay, halina muna kayo, maglagay kayo ng envelopes dito." Tapos, pakakainin ko sila ng scrambled egg sandwich, happy na yung mga bata. Ang isang kahon kasi 100 yung laman na Christmas cards, apat na sections na tig 25. Next morning for delivery na iyon sa Divisoria.

Why did you start selling Christmas cards and ornaments?

Kasi ang libro, seasonal. You can only sell textbooks kung school opening at saka konti sa second semester. In between we had to think of other things to sell.

How do you feel when people say National Book Store is like a sari-sari store now?

Hindi naman sumasama ang loob ko. Totoo naman eh. (laughs) Wala akong magagawa, this is the only solution to survive. Anyway, may libro pa rin. When it comes to bestsellers we have those. "Purpose Driven Life" for example. We have sold 330,000 copies of it. Ginamit na pang-gift nung Pasko. P175 lang ang ganda-ganda na. Imagine, 330,000 copies, natalo pa ang "Harry Potter"!

When you started did you personally choose what titles to order?

Oo at saka may guide naman kami kung ano ang mabenta sa America dahil may Publishers Weekly.

How did you get the Hallmark license? That's a big one!

Oh, yes. Nagpunta rito naghahanap ng local licensee in 1973. Naku tinawag ako Biyernes Santo, 3 p.m. Tatlo kami na interesado. Pagdating dun sabi sa'kin, "You better present a project study." Sabi ko, "I'm sorry, I don't know how to make a project study. But give it to me and I'll show you what I can do." Nakaka-Ingles tayo kapag ganyan. (Laughter) Nagkamot ng ulo yung Amerikano. Tapos kumuha siya ng pad paper, nagtanung sya nang nagtanong. Pagtanong nya, sagot ko naman. Tanong ulit, sagot. How many designs, what paper... Ang daming tanong on how to produce a greeting card. Alam na alam ko yun eh. Gumagawa ako nun eh. Meron akong Philippine views at postcards. Sulat siya nang sulat. Tapos initsa sa harap ko yung papel na sinulatan niya. "There is your project study." (Laughter) Sabi sa akin, "I will let you know in a few weeks." After a few weeks dumating ang sulat. "If you are really interested, you have to come to Kansas City to sign the agreement." Naku, ang tuwa ko!

Did you go to Kansas?

Nagpunta ako maski na natatakot ako sa eroplano. Noon pa lang ako nakasakay ng eroplano. Pagdating doon, pinakilala kami. Aba, nung bandang huli nang nakita na yung ginagawa namin, yung mga licensees nila sa ibang Southeast Asian countries pinadadala sa'min para mag-observe.

Do you print the Hallmark cards here now?

Yes, the design and the wordings come from them. They send us a camera-ready film for printing. Then we give it to the printer. Yun ang ibinabayad ng royalty.

Between fiction and non-fiction, which sells better?

Well, we have been selling more non-fiction than fiction since two years ago, especially inspirational books like "Purpose Driven Life," "Five People You Meet in Heaven." Parang naghahanap ang mga tao ng mababasang makakalubag ng loob nila.

SUPER salesgirl Socorro giving hands-on lessons on how to display books on National's shelves.

How about romance?

Ay, naku, yan ang No. 1 bestseller (laughs). Yung mga romance na Tagalog. Champion ang benta namin nyan. Pero ang price P30, P35 lang.

Besides your bookstore, what are your other interests?

Siguro collecting paintings kasi noong araw mura pa. At saka singing.

Marunong kayong magluto?

Hindi... (laughter)

Marunong kayong magburda?

Hindi rin... (laughter)

Mahilig kayong maghalaman?

(Shakes her head) (Laughter) Pero kung magtitinda, gustung-gusto ko. Lalo na kung mapapabili ko ang ayaw bumili (laughter). Aba, nung ako'y nagtitinda pa eh madalas pina-pirate ako. "O, magkano sweldo mo rito?" "Okay lang ho." "Sa akin ka na magtrabaho, eto card ko." Aba, tuwang-tuwa naman ako! (laughs)

Kung minsan naman, palagay mo, may maghahanap ng wedding thank-you cards. Di ibig sabihin ay bagong kasal. Ang gagawin ko, "Misis, meron kaming mga libro para sa mga bagong kasal." Maghahagikhikan yung dalawa, tapos, "Nasaan?" "Doon sa taas, halika yo." Ayun, nakakabili. (Laughter) Tinuturo ko sa mga tindera namin yan. Pag humanap ng wrapping paper, sabi ko, alukan mo ng Scotch tape, alukan mo ng gift tag.

Why did you open PowerBooks?

PowerBooks is for purely books. Walang chechebureche na iba (laughter). Alam nyo, sa Cubao naglagay din kami ng mga silya dun sa may escalator, parang yung sinasabi ninyong mga bookstores sa States. Naku, kung lunchtime, heto na ang mga tao may dalang pumbrera.

Do they do that now at PowerBooks?

Sa PowerBooks? Hindi. Baka iba ang tao sa Makati. (Laughter)

What is the biggest problem of a business like yours?

Medyo mahina ngayon. Actually, hindi dahil sa competition kundi either nagtitipid ang tao o tumaas ang mga presyo, yung pera nila is just enough for food, medicine, you know, basic needs. The last thing they want to buy is a book.

If I want to start a business now what will you advise me to do?

Depende kung ano alam mo.

So you should get into a business that you know?

Exactly. Maski na gusto mo magtinda ng libro, if you don't know anything about books, mahihirapan ka. Kung gusto mong kumita kailangan mahirapan ka (laughs) It cannot be dropped on your lap without your share of hirap.

How do you handle money?

Well, ako, sabi nga nila barat daw ako eh. Kasi alam ko ang hirap maghanap-buhay. Tubo natin konti lamang. May shoplifter ka pang kasosyo.(Laughter) Oo, alam nyo ba, sa Mongol pencil kung magkano ang aming tubo? Tatlong pera. Mawalan ka lang ng isa, ilang pencils ang ibebenta mo para mabawi. I spend money wisely. Palagay mo may kita, a certain percentage ilalagay mo sa money market para may interest ka. Certain percentage kung may makita ka na real estate o di kaya condo, ilagay mo doon. You have to control the spending—hindi lalaki ang negosyo mo kung hindi ka magiinvest. Magbukas ka lang ng isang branch ngayon hindi biro.

How much, Nanay?

Depende sa laki but an average of P30-40 million.

Which is the biggest National branch?

Well, yung sa Cubao.

Which one is your favorite?

Ang totoo niyan Glorietta kasi malakas. (Laughter)

Nanay, ano ang bisyo mo?

(Whispers) Malakas akong kumain. (Laughter)

What is your favorite restaurant?

Good question (laughs)... Sugi. Via Mare din. Ang Via Mare cookbook ang bilibili. That's Glenda Barretto's.

You're doing so many things right now. Ikaw nagpapareprint ng ganito, alam mo lahat ng nangyayari sa stores, etc. But do you have a plan about succession? Who is going to do all these things in the future?

Malamang nito si Cecile (her only daughter). She's the one handling office and school supplies. Yun ang mahirap. Libro madali lang eh. Well, libro is not as easy as I'm saying it, but may guide ka naman eh. Meron kang Publishers' Weekly. Meron kang New York Times Bestsellers. Meron kang USA Today. From there,

NATIONAL/ G3

National treasure

From page G2

makikita mo halos pare-pareho.

"Harry Potter" was a bestseller all over the world. Did it sell as well here?

Yes, we sold 32,000 copies of Harry Potter No. 5 last year.

But you sold more of "The Purpose Driven Life"?

Yes, 330,000 copies, but it was cheaper naman. P175 versus P1,000 plus for "Harry Potter."

Personalized *ba ang* management style *mo*, Nanay? Do you have rules in the store for your personnel?

Oh, yes, yes. You have to have a smiling face. Be polite to the customers. And consider the customer king.

How many employees do you have?

Ngayon, 3,332.

Wow, alam na alam nyo!

Ay syempre, naku, problema mo yan tuwing sweldo. (Laughter) Halos siguro mga 25 percent sa kanila have been with us for 20 years.

Ano nagustuhan mo kay Mr. Ramos, Nanay?

Good question... Bata pa ako, hindi ko alam kung ano ang aking ginagawa. (Laughter) Aba ang age gap namin 14 years! But it was God's will. Alam mo ang negosyo nya nagi-import sya noon ng mga bato na made in Germany. Ginagawang mga hikaw. Dinadala nya sa Meycauayan sa mga jewelers.

Why didn't he convince you to join him in his jewelry business instead of going into the book business?

Oo nga, baka mas maganda yun, ano? (Laughter) Pero hindi kasi necessity yun eh. Kung may pera lang saka ka bibili ng jewelry. Eh itong lapis, papel, everyday needs yan. Ang mabili ngayon yung copy paper. Everyday we can sell thousands of reams.

When you first started, did you have to borrow money?

In the beginning hindi. Pero nung huli na, nung lumalaki na for expansion, you have to open letters of credit. Pero nung umpisa hindi. Maski na nung binili namin yung lupa sa kanto dala-dala namin sa Carnation box yung cash.

What is the most expensive item that you're selling?

Most expensive? May tinitinda kaming cellphones, meron mga Parker pens, gold, P20,000 each, nakasusi.

Besides store location, what is important to a business like National?

Ambience, lighting, shelves. Yung display mo dapat maganda, attractive.

Has the National color always been red?

Eh kasi lucky raw ang red. But when we started we had red stripes on white. Ako gumawa nun eh... After using it for 40-plus years, yung mga bata, mga apo, gusto nilang baguhin. Red background tapos white lettering. Alam mo umiyak ako. Dati pag may nakita ako sa jeep na may bitbit na supot na may stripes, happy na ko eh. Ibig sabihin may buena mano na kami. Kita mo agad. Eh yung red ang daming gumagamit. Pero nagbotohan kami, 16 versus one. Lahat sila in favor sa red. I have to respect their opinions. Kailangan irerespeto mo because they will never learn how to make decisions.

Meron ho ba kayong arrangements with the malls for National? We noticed you're in all the malls.

Alam mo kung bakit? Kasi parang hindi kumpleto ang mall kung walang National. Ang tatawagan nilang una para mamili ng space Jollibee, McDonald's, National... Kasi parang crowd-drawers eh.

You have your own school supplies brand di ba, Nanay?

Yung Best Buy. Maganda, good quality pero mura. The secret of it all is mababa yung presyo.

How are you able to do that?

By volume purchase. Gaya ng notebooks, kung isang store ka lang gaano na lang ang mabibili mo. Eh kung marami kang tindahan libo-libo ang bibilhin mo sa supplier so you get a good price.

SUPER SALESGIRL
By Quijano de Manila

WITH WRITER Nick Joaquin as he autographs a copy of "Super Salesgirl" (inset), a small book on Nanay Coring which he was commissioned by Ben Ramos to write for her 54th birthday.

What are you doing to encourage the young children to read more?

Well, one thing, to encourage them we make books available at low prices. Tignan nyo ang ating libro, below US dollar. If you multiply at current exchange rate we are 25 percent lower. Number two, meron tayong mga Laking National, mga ganyang promos. Meron tayong mga raffles.

How does Laking National work?

You present your card every time you buy something at National and you get bonus points. Brainchild ni Cecile yan. Maraming pakulo (laughs). You have to do that kasi kailangang magkaroon ng interest ang mga tao.

What time do you start your day?

Seven. I eat breakfast then I make telephone calls. Nakalista na kung sino tatawagan ko the night before kung hindi malilimutan ko. Tapos bihis na. I go to the office. I'm there until 6:30 p.m. I go to sleep at 3 a.m. (laughs)

What do you do until 3 a.m.?

Well, nagbabasa ng INQUIRER (laughs).

Galing mo, Nanay!

Oo, totoo! INQUIRER ang katabi ko! Yun naman talaga ang maganda eh.

Do you watch TV?

Ah, yes. Yung news sa 11:30 ng gabi.

So wala nang business sa gabi?

Kung minsan kausap ko yung mga anak ko by phone, kung may nangyari, kung may sunog, saan...ganyan.

Do you watch movies?

Ay hindi na, kung bibigyan ako, pahihiramin ako, sa bahay lang.

Nung buhay si Mr. Ramos, ano ho ginagawa nyong dalawa?

Nanonood kami ng sine, mga double programs. (Laughter)

Who were your favorite stars?

Noon pa yon, sina Tyrone Power, Shirley Temple. Naku di nyo na kilala sila!

Action ho ba ang gusto nyo o drama?

Drama.

Do your children and grandchildren get books from National for free?

Hindi, nagbabayad sila. Maski na ako nagbabayad. Kung kailangan ko ng Scotch tape, bibili ako sa National. Babayaran ko. Kahit sabihin mo mura lang yan I pay. Eh mura nga maliit naman ang tubo.

Pero meron naman kayong Laking National? (laughter)

Actually, I made it a rule kahit na mga anak o mga apo babayaran ang kinukuha as an example to the employees. Kasi kung makikitang basta na lang kuha ka ng kuha eh baka sila rin.

What are your plans for National?

Ang plano ng mga bata to make it 100 stores.

Then you'll be in all the provinces...

Dapat dahil parang service din sa community. I tell you, we opened the branch in Vigan, Ilocos Sur ang ganda. Good sales.

Is that your farthest in Luzon?

Yes. I went there for the opening. It took me eight hours. Tuwing opening meron kaming misa.

Sa South po, ano ang pinakamalayo?

Cagayan de Oro. Davao meron din. GenSan wala pa. Pero I think magkakaroon din doon.

Do you go to book fairs abroad?

Oo, once in a while. Pero ngayon ang pinadadala ko ang mga buyers.

When was the last time you went to a book fair?

About five years ago? Five years ago. Itong year na ito New York na naman.

You're going to Monaco for the World Entrepreneur of the Year, di ba? So from Monaco you can go to New York.

Correct. Ganun nga ang plano.

Do you take vacations?

Holy Week. At least, magsisimba ka kahit papano. Tapos yung aparador mo, lilinisin mo. (laughter)

Do you work on your birthday?

Oo. Ano namang diperensya kung birthday mo bakit di ka magtatrabaho?

Wow, you don't take vacations, you don't have birthday leaves... Malaki siguro ang bonus nyo!

Wala nga eh... (shakes head)

Magkano suweldo mo, Nanay?

Kulang nga ang binibigay sa akin eh. (laughter) Totoo! Kulang ang suweldo sa akin. Hindi na ko tinaasan. (Laughter)

Summer
Splash

PENSHOPPE
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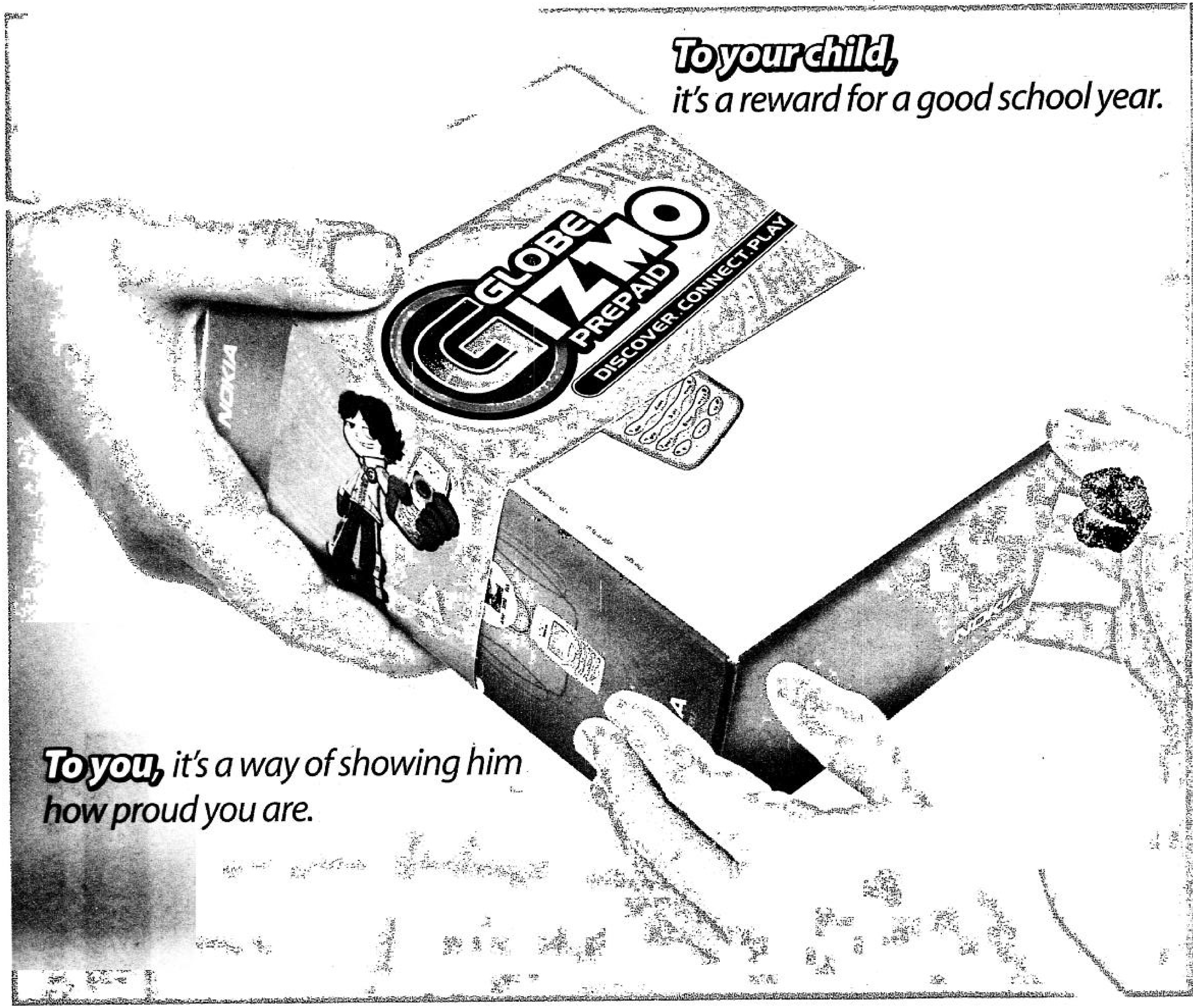

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Chevrolet Lumina

GENERAL MOTORS LIGHTS UP LUXURY CAR MARKET IN THE PHILIPPINES

General Motors Philippines introduced last week a "conservatively styled yet superiorly engineered" luxury vehicle that is expected to corner a significant part of the market.

This is the Chevrolet Lumina, a 2.5-liter sedan designed with space, comfort and agile performance.

During its launching ceremonies, GMPh president James Lim simply introduced the Lumina as "something conservative yet superior, something familiar but unique."

"We bring to the market an upper-medium sedan in the 2.5-liter class, one that shines in simplicity because of premium and dependability; one that is quite familiar because of the badge of Chevrolet, and one that is unique because of the ultra-comfort features," Lim said.

The Chevrolet Lumina is a major addition to the line of Chevrolet vehicles distributed by GMPh in the local market. The Lumina joins the Optra 1.8L and 1.6L, the Aveo, Venture van, the SUV brothers Suburban, Tahoe and Trailblazer; and the Silverado pickup.

As a luxury sedan that is competitively priced at P1,290,000 (introductory price until March 31), the Chevrolet Lumina reflects an American automotive design looking large with an imposing appeal. But more than its design, General Motors is confident that the Lumina will further boost the company's momentum in the local market with its ultra-luxurious features and superior riding comfort.

Known as Chevrolet Buick in China, the Lumina also captured the mid-size passenger car market in several countries in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

"We are optimistic that the expansion of the Chevrolet product line, through this product introduction, will make the company shine in the local automotive business, and will boost the company's momentum in expanding share in the market," Lim added.

Following the success of the Chevrolet Optra, GM Philippines expects to gain growth in the upper-medium passenger car market through the introduction of the Lumina.

With its new design four-wheel independent suspension, the Chevrolet Lumina is the "no-noise, no-bounce ride for its passengers." A four-wheel independent suspension assures a smooth ride over local road conditions, while its 2.5 V6 engine continues the Chevrolet's silent engine technology which is also carried in the Optra.

> *"We bring to the market an upper-medium sedan in the 2.5-liter class, one that shines in simplicity because of premium and dependability; one that is quite familiar because of the badge of Chevrolet, and one that is unique because of the ultra-comfort features,"*

Passenger comfort dictated the design of the Lumina's cabin. The spacious interior offers leg, shoulder and head room. The elegantly-designed leather seats are perfectly matched with the Lumina's chrome-laced instrumentation panel. Keeping the passenger comfortable throughout the journey is the Electronic Climate Control.

Entertainment is provided by a six-way speaker with "concert sound" quality, AM/FM stereo-radio and CD player.

If the company president prefers to drive, he or she will be rewarded by a pleasant experience. The driver has an eight-way adjustable bucket seat, as well as a tilt-adjustable steering column.

Visibility on four corners is also impressive with the wide-panoramic windows. Taking the Lumina for a drive means calling on the power of the 2.5-liter V6 engine mated to an electronically controlled fourspeed automatic transmission. Step on the gas and feel the acceleration of taking the Lumina from 0-100 kph in 12.8 seconds! Top speed is recorded at 173 kph. For safety, the Lumina has four-wheel, anti-lock disc brake system, integrated steel body structure with impact protection, front dual air bags and safety steel four-door beams.

The Chevrolet Lumina is also "dressed" to take those who "have arrived" and leave an elegant profile at the doorway. With smart headlamp design, chrome laced bumpers with the very visible golden Chevrolet badge, it definitely implies class and dignified appearance.

For a passenger car, the Lumina's 215/70 R50 tires are smartly mounted on eight-spoke alloy wheels. That translates to a smoother ride.

The car also 'talks' to the driver, informing him on the tire condition with the dashboard mounted tire pressure monitoring. If the driver forgets to take the key out of the ignition, the Lumina has a dependable PassKey III anti-theft system which is on 24-hour alert.

The Chevrolet Lumina is in the showrooms of the following GMPh dealer networks: GM Autoworld Makati, Shaw, Quezon Avenue; Chevrolet Pasig, Alabang, North Edsa and Pampanga; GM Autoworld Cebu and Davao.

The chauffeur floored the pedal as I glanced at my wife, panic quietly creeping into her eyes.

The car gently hugged the curve towards our destination. And as they whisked her away to the delivery room.

I let out a deep, relieved sigh. We made it just in time.

The new Chevrolet Lumina's powerful V6 engine.

It's something else.

I am Chevrolet.

TAKING A VENTURE -- in two moves!

By Pinky Concha Colmenares, SPMJ
(Society of Philippine Motoring Journalists)

I like to drive but I have anxiety attacks parking, especially maneuvering into limited spaces when people are watching. I looked at the gold Chevrolet Venture parked at the office front lot and I delayed getting on it. Not only was its clean profile with the wide windows attracting too much attention, it was parked between two huge SUVs. A few meters behind was a pickup. Driving it out meant some smooth maneuvers, the kind that I was not exactly known for. My boys -- Aris and Anjo -- would probably do that in two moves. I may be lucky if I completed it in four.

But I had to drive it out; my "motoring editor title" was at stake. I took my driving position and was glad to find visibility was no problem. The low hood offered a sweeping view of the front, and although the back seemed like too much distance from the rear view mirror, the side mirrors closed in my perspective.

Putting on a face of complete confidence, I banked on what I knew of Chevrolet big vehicles. First, I adjusted the steering column; stepped on a pedal at the extreme left to release the handbrake; moved the steering column shift to reverse, stepped on the gas -- and relied on the Venture's steering wheel's sensitivity and power steering to lead me out of that space. The crowd of drivers stopped their talk and watched what they thought would be another awkward maneuver from a lady-driver. They must have been surprised -- and so was I -- when I was out of that fix in two moves -- just like a pro!

After that introductory driving maneuver, I knew the Venture and me were going to get along for the weekend test drive, even if that meant basement or parallel street parking. Even with its perceived long profile (5114mm), this van drove like a sedan. Its sensitive steering and responsive gas pushed my confidence in doing some "no-no's" like swerving to the next lane when mine was too slow.

When I pushed the Venture faster than usual, I was confident that its 4-wheel ABS and sophisticated suspension system can make sure that I could keep the van stable no matter what road surprises I encounter -- even sharp corners.

I was only reminded that I was actually driving a van whenever I glanced at the rear view mirror and I saw three rows -- two captain seats on the second and a bench type at the rear -- behind. The captain seats made the cabin back there so roomy, it seemed like I was driving a really long vehicle.

Well, I forgot that van-feeling when my foot discovered that the quick response of its 3.0 liter V6 engine mated to a four-speed automatic transmission could get the whole length of 5114 mm (1847mm width) into the next lane, safely. And that kind of power could get me past a few sedans, the same ones that impatiently weave through vans that are believed to slow down vehicle flow. It's a good feeling being on the wheel of the Venture and pretending not to notice the sedans unsuccessfully trying to cut me. With just one deep push on the gas, I am able to illustrate the power of a 3.0 literV6! Nice.

So, I'm enjoying the feeling of being in command of this huge vehicle, and being faster than most cars beside me. I put on my special Vivaldi CD, the one that my motoring boys would complain about.

If the kids are with you, take along an entertaining movie; the Venture LT has a good VCD system with screens only at the back of the first row seats for viewing of passengers at the back. The suspension system of the Venture (front, MacPherson coil over strut independent suspension and the rear, twist axle/coil spring semi-independent suspension) promises a smooth ride that will not activate your migraine.

The van also has a feature that helps ease crowd control. It's the dual sliding doors which allow easy access or egress of passengers, a convenient feature when you have a "full-house" of seven passengers -- like I did for my son's birthday last week!

During the rainy months, the Venture's high ground clearance (179mm) will allow you to cross most flooded streets, of course, allowing some common sense to guide you on that.

The Venture has several "small" features that I appreciated. There's the rear parking aid which makes a beeping sound as you reverse, which is a big help to one's sense of distance from objects at the rear. And, the beeping sound that comes on when the key is in the ignition helped to remind me to take the key along before leaving the vehicle.

A courtesy light, by the way, is turned on when you unlock the van through the remote keyless entry transmitter, allowing you to see the interior before entry. A delayed illumination feature also keeps the interior illuminated for about 25 seconds after all doors have been closed to allow you to find your ignition and buckle your safety belt at night. It fades out when you turn the ignition on or lock all doors. There is also an "exit lighting" feature which turns the interior lamps on once you remove the key from the ignition. To a lady-driver, these small features are quite significant at night, especially when you're parked in a parking building or a dark area.

Speaking of lamps, the Venture because of its size, is prepared to light up all the interior space. There are two reading lamps in the overhead console in the front row; a dome light in the center above the second row of seats; two reading lamps in the third row, above the seating positions; and a cargo lamp above the liftgate opening which goes on every time you open the doors.

When I started getting comfortable, both as a driver and passenger, I began to feel the intimidation of driving a long van fade off. It surfaced when I reached my destination and had to park. And since it was a Sunday at the Shangrila Plaza open parking area, another extraordinary maneuver was needed to get this vehicle resting and me on my way to some serious shopping. My daughter, who must have been a parking attendant in another life, offered to spare me some embarrassing moments.

Again, the drivers stopped whatever they were doing and stared at the Venture and me. Again, I felt I had to save the reputation of lady drivers. I trusted the Chevrolet Venture -- and many years of driving an array of vehicles.

This time, I chose to enter the limited space on the reverse. I drove the van's length forward, an inch away from a parked SUV; pulled the shift to reverse, tapped the gas so gently and turned the wheel firmly. Finding both sides clear from the side mirrors, I slid the Venture into the only parking space open at that hour. To enhance my image of confidence in front of those professional drivers, I resisted turning my head back. I trusted the picture that this Chevrolet's side mirrors gave me (no fancy mirror edges that seemed to thwart your perspective) -- and slid the Venture in two moves!

The drivers acted like it was nothing special and returned to their tasks. Huh -- I should have taken a bow!

What they say about Chevrolet Venture

"I'm used to driving a wagon but Chevy Venture is a lot easier to drive because of its stronger power. What I like best are its four-row seats, double sliding door, and on-board TV features. I have five kids and they all fit in the van. It's truly an ideal family getaway car. Definitely a good buy."

Severino Fortes
Director
World Vision International

Chevrolet Venture's strong engine power makes for a comfortable driving experience ideal for long travels. With its sophisticated suspension system, we know we are safe even when negotiating sharp curves. Its comfortable captain chair and legroom features makes you feel as if you're just sitting on a sofa and not actually driving. It's worth my hard-earned money. I know I wasn't wrong when I bought this car and I even recommended it to my friends."

Delia Ternate
EVP Operations
Ternate-Kemp International Corp.

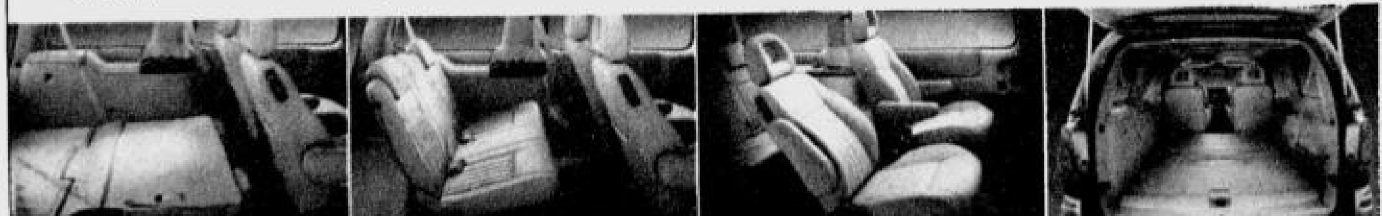
Chevrolet Venture.
First class travel for seven from only P199,000 down payment.*

Or an affordable monthly fee of P11,804.**

- Free Periodic Maintenance for 2 years or 30,000 kms with parts and labor.
- P20,000 worth of free gas.*

*Applies only to the Venture LT Premium. **For 72 months based on 50% down payment for the Venture LT Premium.

Contact Chevrolet or GM Autoworld now at 1.800.1888.4646.
PROMO PERIOD: Feb. 22 to March 31, 2005. Per DII-NCR Permit No. 0953 Series of 2005



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Chevrolet OPTRA
A Car That Fits Your Active Lifestyle

Elegantly silent. That is the Chevrolet Optra at standstill or speeding. Slip into the cabin. Start the engine. Step on the gas. You will notice the quiet comfort of being in a luxury car. The engine of the Chevrolet Optra -whether it's the 1.6-liter or the 1.8-liter variant - is silent. In fact, some people even forget it's on after a lingering pause for a stoplight, that they unconsciously reach for the ignition key.

The Optra development team had applied comprehensive noise reduction systems to create a compact sedan with an exceptionally quiet ride reminiscent of a much larger sedan. Several parts were engineered to insulate sound. The engine (with a cover that was designed to warp around and seal off as much noise) and transmission are set on hydraulic mounts to reduce vibration and sound from the engine compartment, which also has an isolated cover.

With the silence comes the space which supports the feel of being in a luxury car. Its length (4,500 mm) and width (1,725 mm) make the Optra bigger than other cars in the same class. It also has the longest wheelbase of 2,600 mm which is one of the longest in the compact midsize segment. It's certainly a compact luxury car, but there's no category like that yet.

The Chevrolet Optra's engine displacement technically puts it under the compacts. It has two variants - 1.8-LT automatic transmission and 1.6 LS four-speed automatic, gate type, adaptive shift control logic, and also a five-speed manual.

The Optra 1.8 LT automatic has a maximum output of 121 Ps@5000 rpm and a maximum torque of 165 Nm@4000 rpm. The 1.8 LT and LS models can reach top speeds of 185 kph. Depending on the variant and transmission type, the Optra can accelerate from 0-100 between 12.4 and 14.3 seconds. Under test drive conditions, the Optra's EBD braking system, which is standard on all models, brought the Optra to a complete stop within 42 meters from a speed of 100 kph.

The Chevrolet Optra 1.6LS has a maximum output of 110 ps @ 5000 rpm and a maximum torque of 150 NM @ 4000 rpm.

It will be quite difficult to keep within speed limits with a clear straightaway with the Optra's silent engine. You won't notice you're doing 130 in a 90kph zone! Significant during the high speed part of a drive will be the speed sensitive power steering wheel which enhances the driver's feeling of being in control of the car.

Overtaking becomes an experience. You could be doing 70, tailing a loaded 10-wheeler, but as soon as the next lane clears, a heavy foot can push acceleration, you can actually feel the engine pick up. Credit that to the 165 Nm of torque from the 4-cylinder 16-valve 1.8 liter engine (150 Nm in the case of the 1.6 engine) for the Optra's good mid-range acceleration and kick-down response when overtaking.

The Optra's braking system will reorient one's concept of braking. With the Optra, you step on the brake and it does not shake its passengers with an abrupt halt. Like a luxury vehicle, it feels like it slips into a full stop. All models are fitted with a Bosch 4-sensor, 4-channel ABS system with Electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD) that ensures confident and effective braking. All wheels are equipped with disc brakes with 9-inch tandem boosters.

The cabin is equipped to carry its passengers in a neat environment. There are storage spaces around the glove box with a special compartment that can chill drinks; a tray under the front passenger seat for goodies and maps; and a multi-purpose central storage console; a rear center armrest with cupholders (yes! a passenger also needs that to store beverage). A special feature is a 60-40 folding seatback for the rear, which allows access to the rear baggage compartment.

Its entertainment system is provided by a Blaupunkt radio, cassette and CD player set with a five disc in-dash; with six speakers. Audio control can be manipulated from a remote system in the steering wheel.

The driver will feel truly in command. A three-circle formal instrument panel with jade green illumination and translucent cover gives easy-to-read information. Tilt-adjustable steering wheel and a height-adjustable driver's seat can make anyone feel like the car was truly designed for him or her.

Step out and view the Optra to appreciate its quiet elegance. Italian car designer Pininfarina has its signature on it - muscular shape with dynamic front that highlights strong hood character lines. Sleek, crystal clear style fog lamps, see-through high-tech tail lights and unique windows. All that will leave an impression of the owner to those following behind.

View the Optra from the side, and notice how the 195/55 R16 tires give it flash of luxury.

Feel secure with the remote keyless entry with trunk lid opener, an engine immobilizer security system, and the standard 3-pt ELR seatbelts.

" Chevrolet has been synonymous with dependability and value for money, but the new Optra sets new standards in offering value for money in the compact car segment," said GM Philippines president James Lim.

The Optra joins the Chevrolet line of General Motors Philippines - the SUV family of the Suburban, Trailblazer, Tahoe; Silverado full-size pickup; and the newly launched Lumina.

All Chevrolet vehicles are available in all GM Autoworld in Shaw, Makati, Quezon Avenue, and Cebu, and all exclusive Chevrolet showrooms in Alabang, Pampanga, Pasig, and Davao.

P8,342*. The lowest monthly on an Optra 1.8LT Limited Edition.

Low down/low monthly installments. 0% interest for 12 mos. payment. Straight discount for cash purchases. Free parts and maintenance for up to 2 years or 30,000 kms.

Limited Edition 1.8LT with Special Edition Euro styling: Alloy Wheels; Window Visor; Front, Rear and Side Skirts. Free 24/7 roadside assistance (includes towing, lost key and flat tire change). With an offer this good, expect the Chevrolet Optra to go very, very fast. Hurry, contact Chevrolet or GM Autoworld now at 1.800.1888.4646.

*Based on 50% down payment for 72 months for Optra 1.8LT Limited Edition.

PROMO PERIOD: February 5 to March 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0605 Series of 2005

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CAR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

TRAILBLAZER Wins 'Best Full-size SUV' Award

CAR of the YEAR

The Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT was adjudged "Best Full-Size SUV" in the Philippine market by the Car Awards Group Inc. during formal ceremonies held Feb. 24 at the Rockwell Tent in Makati.

The award was given during the "Car of the Year" awards ceremonies which was being held for the first time in the country, initiated by some 40 journalists covering the motoring beat.

The award came after the Car Awards Group held a series of test drive weekends in October last year to evaluate the performance and amenities of 56 vehicles in the Philippine market in the year 2004. The vehicles were evaluated with the help of instruments measuring performance, acceleration, braking and sound tests, and test drive weekends conducted by the journalists.

The "Best Full-Size SUV" title adds to the list of awards and citations gathered by the Chevrolet Trailblazer. Its Vortec 4.2 liter in-line 6 engine was designated as one of the "Ten Best Engines" by Ward's Autoworld, a highly respected specialist US motor engineering journal. The Trailblazer also ranked first in the SUV category in customer satisfaction study of J.D. Power Associates. The study, conducted among buyers of all makes and models, showed that owners of cars and trucks made by GM, like the Trailblazer, are among the happiest around.

Launched in the Philippines by General Motors Philippines (GMPh) in August last year, the Chevrolet Trailblazer EXT is one of the newest entries in the local market. Yet in less than a year, it had proven its outstanding qualities which had earned it many citations in other parts of the world.

The entry of the Trailblazer completes the company's SUV line-up in the country, that also includes the Chevrolet Suburban and Chevrolet Tahoe.

The Chevrolet Trailblazer draws its power from a 4.2-liter Vortec in-line 6 engine which has a maximum output of 275 hp@6000 rpm, and a maximum torque of 371 Nm@3600 rpm for stronger cargo and towing capacity. Enhancing its load-carrying capability are the independent front suspension coil-over shock design with upper and lower control arms and five-link design with coil springs.

Car enthusiasts will appreciate other technical details of the Trailblazer which makes it easy to drive: its coil-on plug ignition system uses an advanced spark sensing and control system for consistent responsiveness. And the electronically controlled value timing minimizes intrusion of exhaust gas into the intake charge for more efficient combustion and improved gas mileage.

But for those who just choose to trust the Chevrolet name and evaluate vehicles based on comfort features, the Trailblazer will endear itself for its comfortable seven-adult seating. Its cargo area becomes as roomy as you want it to be, with a versatile seatback folding system that allows a nearly flat load floor with 107 cu. feet of cargo space. You'll be able to load long or bulky items with ease.

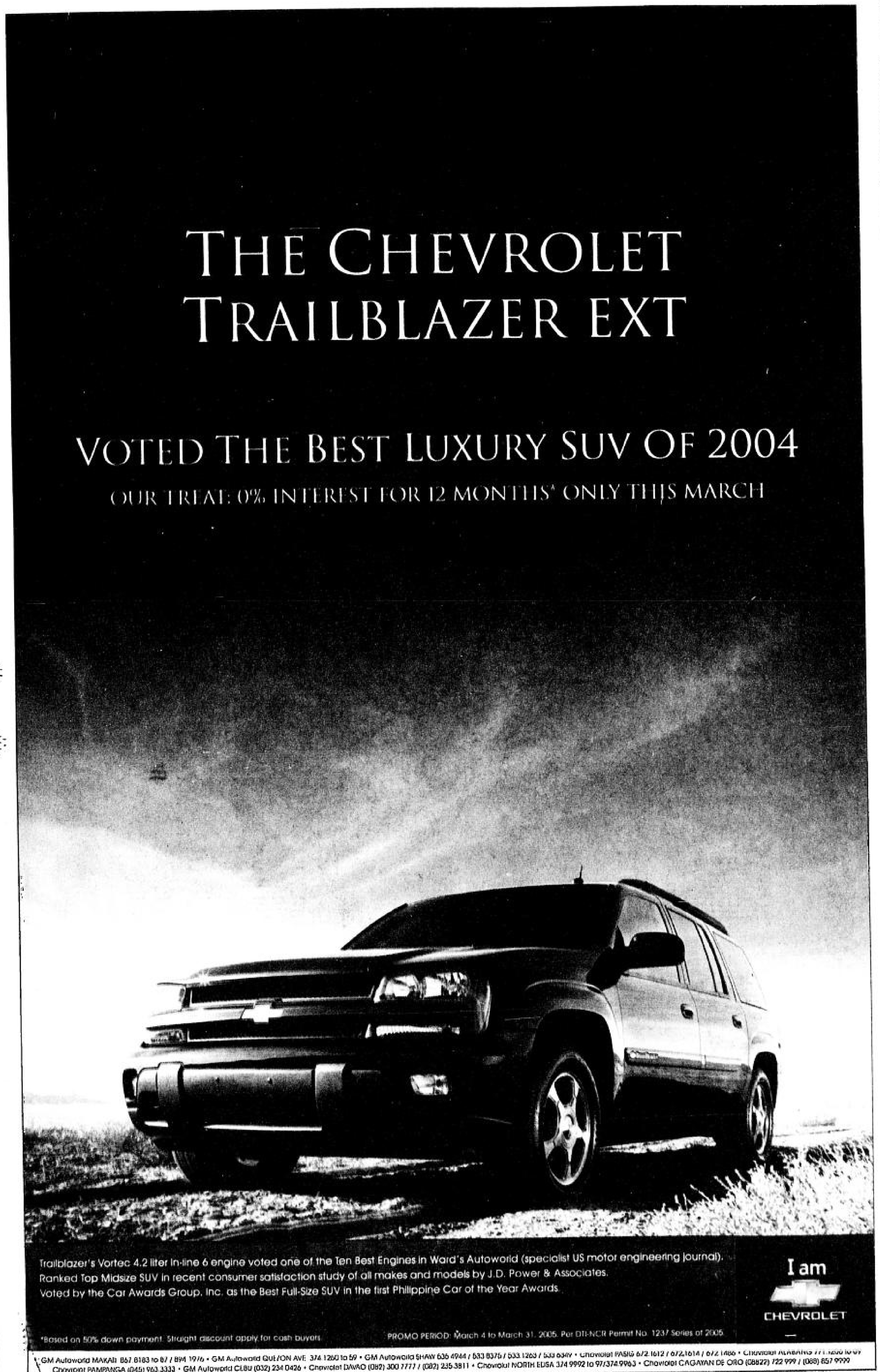
But if you need all three rows to seat seven, there is also more than 23 cubic feet of cargo space behind the third seat which can carry picnic essentials like a cool box, food baskets and bags.

Even when fully loaded, passengers will find comfortable seating arrangements that will not cramp their styles. Its sears are covered with premium cloth fabric. The front bucket seats are designetl to accommodate heights from 4-feet-ten-inches to 6-feet-two-inches. For on-board entertainment, there's an excellent radio-CD/cassette and six-speaker system.

Families on a long - and usually fast - drive to the country can feel confident with the fact that the Trailblazer EXT has been given the highest five-star rating in safety by the National Highway Safety Administration. With a 4WD that assures better control in changing road terrain, the driver has the assistance of a standard four-wheel vented disc anti-lock brakes (ABS). Safety is also enhanced by dual-stage air bags for front seating positions and three point restraint systems for all seating positions, including the middle rear.

If you choose to drive this outstanding vehicle, you will find the feeling of total control in the driver's seat where you have an all-around view of the vicinity ahead. and all controls are easy to read and within reach. You'll have to get used to the automatic daytime running lights which illuminate when you start the engine and the automatic headlamp system that gives you a lighted path when visibility is low.

The Chevrolet Trailblazer can be viewed at the showrooms of the GM dealers and Chevrolet Autoworld around Metro Manila.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TRAILBLAZER EXT
VOTED THE BEST LUXURY SUV OF 2004
OUR TREAT: 0% INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS* ONLY THIS MARCH
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Trailblazer's Vortec 4.2 liter In-line 6 engine voted one of the Ten Best Engines in Ward's Autoworld (specialist US motor engineering journal).
Ranked Top Midsize SUV in recent consumer satisfaction study of all makes and models by J.D. Power & Associates.
Voted by the Car Awards Group, Inc. as the Best Full-Size SUV in the first Philippine Car of the Year Awards.

*Based on 50% down payment. Straight discount apply for cash buyers.

PROMO PERIOD: March 4 to March 31, 2005. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1237 Series of 2005

GM Autoworld MAKATI 867.8183 to 87 / 894 1976 • GM Autoworld QUEZON AVE 374 1260 to 59 • GM Autoworld SHAW 636 4944 / 633 8375 / 533 1263 / 533 6349 • Chevrolet PASIG 672 1612 / 672 1614 / 672 1486 • Chevrolet ALABANG 771 1260 to 69
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Creative Director (CD)

- Graduates of any four-year course
- Male/Female, 35-38 years old
- With extensive background in copywriting, conceptualization and idea generation
- With at least 5 yrs. working experience from one of the leading ad agencies in the country
  With supervisory skills

Associate Creative Director (ACD)

- Graduates of any four-year course
- Male/Female 28-30 yrs. old
- At least with 2 yrs. experience from an ad agency
- With excellent background in copywriting, conceptualization and idea generation

Associate Art Director (AAD)

- Graduates of Fine Arts major in Advertising or related courses
- Male, 35-38 yrs. Old
- Expert in developing visual concepts based on creative ideas

Visualizers (V)

- Graduates of Fine Arts major in Advertising or related courses
- Male, 27-30 yrs. old
- Must be hardworking & disciplined
- Proficient in Mac-based software applications

Copywriters (CW)

- Graduates of any four-year course or equivalent
- Male/Female, 24-27 yrs. old
- Preferably with work experience from an ad agency

Account Management Group

Account Director (AD)

- Graduates of Marketing, Advertising, Business, Communication and other related courses
- Female, 35-38 yrs. Old
  With 5-10 years working experience in account management/client servicing from top agencies in the country
- With strong analytical skills
- Must possess solid selling/presentation skills

Account Managers (AM)

- Graduates of Marketing, Advertising, Business, Communication and other related courses
- Female, 27-30 yrs. Old
- With 2-3 yrs. working experience in account management/client servicing from a leading ad agency
- Excellent communication skills
- With pleasing personality

Account Executives (AE)

- Graduates of Marketing, Management, Mass Communication and other related courses
- Female, 24-26 yrs. old
- With significant experience in account management and related fields
- Preferably graduates from reputable schools
- With excellent communication skills
- With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may personally bring, fax or e-mail their sample works / resumes with 2x2 photos and other credentials to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
108 Tordesillas cor. Gallardo Streets, Salcedo Village, Makati City
Tel No. 812-7108 Fax.. 753-3712
E-mail: recruitment@mme.ph

Please indicate the code on the subject line

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GE/Rice and Sustainable Agriculture Expert

You will be based in Asia, with frequent international travel
Duration of this project: April – November 2005
Part time position is possible

Your skills and personal qualifications:

- Practical knowledge of rice sustainable farming in several countries in Asia
- Practical and scientific knowledge of pests, pathogens and solutions in the context of rice

Your tasks:

- Produce one main report on sustainable rice farming solutions in Asia by September 2005.
- Provide ongoing expert advice on ecologically sustainable methods for managing specific rice pests and diseases in Asia
- Provide case studies, Q&A's and research materials on specific rice pests, diseases and sustainable farming solutions, focusing on China, India and Thailand
- Conduct internal research training for campaigners in China, Thailand and India
- Review campaign materials and fact sheets
- Provide advice to campaigners and participate in meetings on ecologically sustainable rice farming
- Give input and assist in organizing rice solutions workshop in Asia
- Participate in public seminars, press conferences and meetings with officials to explain/promote ecologically sound rice farming solutions

Please send your application consisting of a cover letter and a C.V. stating how you meet the profile, to Pernilla Svenberg at the following email address: pernilla.svenberg@int.greenpeace.org

Application deadline: March 15th, 2005.

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has a degree in Business Management, Marketing or any related course; with 3 to 5 years relevant experience in Management or Marketing in a senior capacity; with outstanding leadership, interpersonal and team-building skills; able to conceptualize and implement attainable sales and Marketing Strategies; has a proven track record in sales and service

BUILDING ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

not over 35 years old; graduate of Business Administration, Mechanical or Electrical Engineering; with 2 years work experience in property management and building administration in the same capacity; able to lead a group, prioritize work load, and meet deadlines

CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4 year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in sales and marketing, able to carry out prompt and efficient customer service; with pleasing personality

SELLING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity; responsible for planning, controlling and directing selling activities and personnel for the attainment of sales targets.

COUNTER & CHECKING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in cashiering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions; responsible for over-all supervision of personnel in the department

WAREHOUSE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business; able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment

CUSTOMER RELATIONS SERVICE MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

not over 35 years old; graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; male, must be 5'5 1/2" & female, 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel; with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior; with keen investigation skills, detail oriented and physically fit; flexible to different work assignments and willing to be assigned to provincial branches and work on extended hours

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Code (SR)
- College graduate, good communication skills;
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- Electronics & Comm. Eng. (ECE) or Computer Engineering graduate;
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- BS Accounting graduate; (for Manila)
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Code (TO)
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- Female, nor more than 26 years old.

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Iloilo City	**Computron Business Center** #35 Quezon St., Cor. Ledesma St., Iloilo City Tel. # (033) 336-0816 / 337-2544
Bacolod City	**Negros Saturn Marketing** Med-Cor Bldg., Lacson St., Bacolod City, Negros Occidental Tel. # (034) 433-0101 / 433-0108
Baguio City	**Chimes Enterprises** Perez Bldg., Dagupan City, Pangasinan Tel. # (075) 522-0327 / 523-6974
Angeles City	**Saver's Office Automation** 3/F Savers Mall, Balibago, Angeles City, Pampanga Tel. # (045) 322-0892 / 322-7921
Cagayan Valley	**Alejandra Enterprises** Cavadeco Bldg., Bagay Road, San Gabriel Village, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan Tel. # (078) 896-9164 / 846-2201

Please send resume or apply in person to any of the above address or to:

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5837 Zobel Roxas Street, Palanan, Makati City
Tel. No.: 525-9911 Fax No. 525-9860 / 525-9870
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Awesome RECREATIONAL GYMNASTICS and PRE-SCHOOL TEACHERS For Immediate Hiring

WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXCEPTIONAL INDIVIDUALS WHO:
- are college degree holders, between 21 and 35 years old;
- speak English fluently and have excellent communication skills;
- have high energy levels and are physically fit;
- have a passion for excellence and a professional work ethic, and are habitually punctual;
- are friendly, great with, and enjoy teaching kids;
- have backgrounds or experience in early childhood education, child development, special education, gymnastics, or marketing.

If you're the one we're looking for, please send your application letter, resumé & passport-sized photo BY MAIL or DROP-OFF at any of our branches before March 13, 2005. In your letter, please indicate the POSITION for which you are applying.

Only the most qualified will be called in for interviews.

JUST FOR KIDS INC.
Level 1, Bonifacio Technology Center
31st St. cor. 2nd Ave.,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig 1634

The Little Gym of Makati
Bonifacio Tech Center,
Fort Bonifacio

The Little Gym of Pasig-Mandaluyong
Level 2, Bldg 2 El Pueblo,
Ortigas Center

The Little Gym of Alabang
Level 3, Festival SuperMall

The Little Gym of East Quezon City
2nd Floor, Shoppersville,
Katipunan Ave.

Fairmont HOTELS & RESORTS

5 STAR HOTEL IN DUBAI

POEA REG. NO. 10002068

FOOD & BEVERAGE DEPARTMENT

WAITERS/WAITRESSES
RESTAURANT HOSTESSES
F & B MGRS./ SUPRVSR(M/F)
MINI-BAR ATTNDTS
IN-ROOM DINING MGRS.(M/F)
SERVICE SUPERVISORS(M/F)
F&B SECRETARY(F)
HEAD WAITERS/CAPTAINS

KITCHEN DEPARTMENT-AGE 40 BELOW

CHEF DE PARTIE – TANDOORI/CHINESE/ARABIC
DEMI CHEFS – ARABIC/JAPANESE/INTERNATIONAL
COMMIS – JAPANESE/EUROPEAN/CHINESE/ITALIAN/CONTINENTAL
PASTRY CHEF – creative consultant for Pastry Team
PASTRY ASST. – highly creative in cakes & pastries
STEWARDING SUPERVISORS(M) – hotel experience
STEWARDS (M) – at least 1yr exp. In hotels

HEALTH & RECREATION

SPA THERAPISTS/COORD.
POOL ATTNDT./LIFEGUARDS (Licensed)
HEALTH CLUB ATTNDT.
POOL TRAINOR
(M) BUSS. CENTER SECRETARY
WEDDING COORDINATOR

FRONT OFFICE

F/O RECEPTIONISTS(M/F) – Fidelio knowledge
GUEST SERVICE AGENTS(F)
CREDIT OFFICER – ACCTG.
RESERVATIONS AGENTS
GUEST RELATIONS EXEC.(F)
ACCTS. RECVBL/PAYABLE

HOUSEKEEPING-AGE 30 BELOW

ROOM ATTENDANTS(F)
HOUSEKEEPING SUPVSRS(M/F)
EXEC. HOUSEKEEPERS(M/F)
PUBLIC AREA CLEANERS(M/F)

ENGINEERING–AGE 40 BELOW

PLUMBER
PAINTER
SECURITY OFFICERS
HANDYMAN
ELECTROMECHANIC MAINTENANCE

frontliner applicants must be w/pleasing personality & fluent in English. Height requirement is min 5'3 for females and 5'7 for males. Experience in hotels & exclusive restaurants preferred. Age must be below 30 y/o. Please apply personally with 4 pcs. 2x2photos & 4pcs full body in business attire, 2 sets of resume, diploma, employment and training certificates.

IN GOD WE TRUST
CAMOX PHILIPPINES, INC.

Suite 3A,B & F Hernandez bldg., 1646
Evangelista St, Bangkal Makati City
(ABOVE PNB, BESIDE MERCURY DRUG)
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Wanted Immediately

TEACHERS

- BS Elementary Education
- 29 years old, or less
- Above average intelligence
- Can teach music, arts

ACCT. CLERK

- BS Acctng or BB Admin
- Above average intelligence
- 29 years old, or less

Both positions require proficiency in English and computer. Preferably residing in or near Fairview, QC. Call for appointment or fax Resumé at 939-5848.

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We are a travel related company
in search of young and dynamic
Female, 22-28 years old, single and
fluent in English & Tagalog.
Must have pleasing personality and
computer literate.

REQUIREMENTS:

COMPUTER GRADUATE
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Please submit your bio-data at:
TICKET EXPRESS Glorietta, Ayala Center, Makati
Contact Numbers: 8401832 • 5517110 • 5517112-13

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TeleTech is a premier global business services company that provides a full range of front- to back-office solutions including customer management, BPO, database marketing, and outsourced services to measurably enhance clients' core customer management processes. We have more than 33,000 employees in 67 customer management centers around the world. TeleTech in the Philippines supports many of the world's largest companies. For more information, go to www.teletech.com

We need:

customer service representatives*

* with technical support background

you must have the following:

College Degree
Exceptional spoken English
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(customer service experience preferred)

To apply, please call 552-9752, 9396885 or 9397184 during weekdays 8am to 5pm for a phone interview or send your resume to opsjobs_ph@teletech.com. Please indicate "csr" on the subject line.

TeleTech

* For Applicants near Quezon City : Interviews will be held at our Quezon City Office at Level 2, Stall Nos. 120-121, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Quezon City (fronting SM Fairview)
* For Applicants near Pasay City : Interviews will be held at our Pasay City Office at Bldg. F, SM Corporate Offices, 1000 Bay Boulevard, SM Central Business Park, Bay City, Pasay City, Metro Manila

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PPCC

PAN PACIFIC COMPUTER CENTER, INC.
A YGC Member

We have immediate openings for the following:

Database Administrator

- Management of Oracle Databases, fine tuning of SQL scripts and commands

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (Computer/Telecommunication) or equivalent
- At least 3 year(s) of relevant working experience
- Work experience in insurance or pre-need applications is a plus
- Adept in the following technologies: Oracle, JAVA, PL/SQL, Preferably, also in Linux and Solaris OS
- Preferably with work experience in insurance or pre-need applications

Software Project Manager

- Management of project team tasked to design and develop business applications

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering (Computer/Telecommunication). Computer Science/ Information Technology or equivalent
- At least 3 years of relevant work experience
- Adept in the following technologies: Oracle, Visual Basic & O. and SQL Server 7.0

Network Administrator

- Handling of local area network (LAN) and wide are a network (WAN). Implementation of projects on network infrastructure and security

Requirements:

- Bachelor's Degree in Computer Engineering or related field
- At least two (2) years work experience as a Network Administrator
- Working knowledge of any of the following applications: Send mail, MS Exchange Server, Lotus Notes, MS Proxy ISA, Fire walls (Checkpoint), TCP/IT, WAN, VPN
- Knowledge of PTF, HTTP and SMTP Protocols
- Preferably with Microsoft, CCNA, Linux and/or Novell certifications

Interested applicants may send their resumés to:

**Human Resources Division
Pan Pacific Computer Center, Inc.
3rd Floor, Grepalife Building
221 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
or
hrd@ppcc.com.ph**

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Now is your opportunity to leave traditional sales positions and call centers behind and take the next step in your professional career:

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QUALIFICATIONS:

- College level
- Proficient in computer applications
- Excellent communication skills in English
- Strong and assertive personality
- Willing to work night shift
- Exposure to retail, sales campaigns, promos and events are a definite advantage
- Call center experience a major plus

Take this opportunity to prove yourself and be valued for your contributions.

Bring your resumé with picture to: Branders.com Philippines, Inc.
Unit 303 The Orient Square, Don Francisco Ortigas Jr. Road
(formerly Emerald Avenue) Ortigas Center, Pasig City
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Earn as much as P300,000 on your first year as an Account Manager.

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NABO FARMING & MINING RESOURCES, INC. import agent of minerals is in need of the ff. for Mindanao assignment:

- Retired **Geologic Aide/Mine Sampler** w/experiance in Chrome, Manganese & Iron ores
- **Laboratory Chemist** - we prefer those experienced in determining purity & analysis of the above items by wet classical method but newly graduates can also send their biodata.

Please mail your resume to 2309 Jollibee Plaza Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

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First come, first served -
09178398865/915-1390 to 96

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Male or female, 30 years old and above, Graduate of 4 years Technical Course, Computer literate, At least 3 years exp. in selling construction materials, W/ present contact with Architects & contractors

Attractive salary and incentives.

Send your resumé to:
**Suite 1508 Atlanta Center Bldg.
31 Annapolis St., Greenhills, San Juan**

THE WORLD BANK
Requires

The World Bank Office in Manila requires highly competent, results-oriented individuals who will be working with the Disbursement Unit of Loan Department Group1 based at Manila Regional Center. The regional center is responsible for processing loan withdrawal applications for the Philippines and several East Asian and Pacific Island countries. Initially, the appointment is for a two-year term basis subject to one-year probationary period, with a possibility of renewal. These positions are subject to local recruitment and compensation package and offers attractive, challenging professional growth opportunities in working within a global development organization.

1. Finance Analyst (Ref. FN)

Duties and responsibilities:

- Contributes to various team responsibilities, such as disbursement transaction and analysis, project management, capacity building and department task forces;
- Ensures financial accountability of borrowers, specifically that loan proceeds are used for the purposes intended and eligible in accordance with Bank policies and procedures;
- Provide training to operational and financial management staff in Country Offices as well as borrowers.

Desired minimum qualifications, skills and competencies for the position:

- CPA preferred but minimum of a bachelor's degree with major in accounting, business administration, finance or equivalent experience in related fields within or outside the bank;
- Ability to analytically review financial information and make recommendations concerning, inter alia, the eligibility of expenditures and adherence to the Bank's policies and procedures within established service standards of quality and timeliness;
- Seven years experience in auditing or project accounting. Knowledge of government auditing and funds flow systems is desirable. Familiarity with World Bank policies and guidelines in disbursements will be an added advantage;
- Ability to deal with rapidly shifting priorities and work demands, and willingness to learn new skills and seek help from colleagues;
- Excellent team player, with a strong client and results orientation, with a high degree of adaptability to work independently, with minimum supervision;
- Proficient computer skills as well as excellent written and verbal language skills in English and Pilipino

2. Finance Assistant (Ref. FA)

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Primarily responsible for determination of the completeness of borrowers' withdrawal application in accordance with Bank's policies and procedures, verification of documentation and processing of disbursements or special commitments request;
- Provides support to negotiations, mission preparation, and disbursement seminars.

Desired minimum qualifications, skills and competencies for the position:

- CPA preferred not required, with minimum of a bachelor's degree with major in accounting, business administration, finance or equivalent experience in related fields within or outside the bank;
- Ability to analytically review financial information concerning the eligibility of expenditures and adherence to the Bank's policies and procedures within established service standards of quality and timeliness;
- Five years experience in auditing or project accounting. Knowledge of government auditing and funds flow systems is desirable. Familiarity with World Bank policies and guidelines in disbursements will be an added advantage;
- Ability to deal with rapidly shifting priorities and work demands, and willingness to learn new skills and seek help from colleagues;
- Excellent team player, with a strong client and results orientation, with a high degree of adaptability to work independently, with minimum supervision;
- Proficient computer skills as well as excellent written and verbal language skills in English and Pilipino

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resume with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than March 18, 2005 to . **KSearch Asia Consulting, Inc.**, c/o Karmeli Kintanar at 22/F 139 Corporate Centre, 139 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or email to kkintanar@ksearchasia.com ; fax to 893-6259

Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview.

KSEARCH
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'TAKE YOUR CAREER TO NEW HEIGHTS'

A Dynamic and Leading Japanese Multinational Company belonging to the Top 1000, manufacturing pressed metal and precision plastic molding parts certified to ISO 9001 & 14001, is looking for qualified management personnel to boost its 10 years operation at the Mactan Economic Zone (Cebu).

General Affairs Manager Trainee

- ☐ Female, not more than 40 years old
- ☐ Native of Cebu or surrounding provinces
- ☐ Graduate of any related 4 to 5 year course or higher attainment
- ☐ 5 years or more experience in general office management, in a supervisory or managerial level
- ☐ Excellent communication and organizational skills

HR Manager Trainee

- ☐ Female, not more than 40 years old
- ☐ Native of Cebu or surrounding provinces
- ☐ Graduate of any related 4 to 5 year course or higher attainment
- ☐ At least 5 years experience (preferably HR, Payroll or Finance)
- ☐ Excellent oral and written communication skills
- ☐ Has strong interpersonal and organizational skills
- ☐ Experienced in training and recruitment
- ☐ Good attention to details

Production Manager Trainees

- ☐ Male and Female
- ☐ Native of Cebu or surrounding provinces
- ☐ Not more than 40 years old
- ☐ Graduate of any Engineering course
- ☐ With 3-5 years experience in a supervisory or managerial position
- ☐ Excellent analytical, planning, organizational and communication skills
- ☐ Higher computer proficiency
- ☐ Knowledgeable in ISO Procedures
- ☐ Flexible and customer –oriented

Excellent remuneration and advancement package will be offered to qualified applicants.

Send your Application Letter, TOR, and Resume to:

c/o **Philippine Daily Inquirer (Classifieds)**
Code: 0220 MP-CEBU
PDI Bldg corner Mascardo and Yague Streets,
Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Or email at: **hiring_cebu@yahoo.com**

Prompt communications will be sent for corresponding interviews to be held in Manila and Cebu.

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FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY
Nicanor Reyes (Morayta) Street, Manila

Computer Services Department
Is looking for a ...

Chief Information Officer

QUALIFICATIONS:

- At least 13 years of solid IT experience (at least 3 years in IT management capacity)
- Good background in:
  - Open systems (Unix-based systems and Linux)
  - MS-VB, MS-ASP, PHP, SQL
  - Network administration and Oracle
  - IT project management
- Good communication skills
- Highly motivated

We offer a very competitive compensation package. The requirement is **urgent**. Please bring or e-mail your resumé to the:

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT
4th Floor, Administration Building
Far Eastern University

Nicanor Reyes (Morayta) Street, Manila
www.feu.edu.ph

Telephone number and fax: 735-0041
E-mail: jcnicer@yahoo.com

SHINRYO (PHILIPPINES) COMPANY, INC.

IS IN URGENT NEED OF

"ENGINEERING OPERATIONS MANAGER"

WITH THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS

- Filipino, Male, 30-40 years old, with major experience working in Engineering and Construction companies
- Graduate of Mechanical or Electrical Engineering Course from a prestigious university
- Have substantial knowledge and experience in Design, Installation, Testing and Commissioning works in a HVAC environment. Knowledge in District Heating and Cooling (DHC) Systems and Co-Generation Power Plants is an added advantage
- Have additional knowledge or experience in the design or installation of other Mechanical, Electrical and Auxiliary systems
- Possess background and experience in Quantity Surveying (QS) works, Commercial / Contracts Management and Project Management
- MBA or with substantial units earned from (MBA) post-graduate studies is a definite advantage
- Proficiency in English and with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Have previous technical and business dealings with MEPF Consultants and General Contractors
- Is willing to be assigned for Overseas assignment

Compensation: Above average industry standard

Please submit comprehensive resumé (w/ 2x2 photo), written application and a brief essay of why you are qualified for the position to the following address:

Shinryo (Phils.) Co., Inc.
Rm. 403-406, 4th Floor
One Corporate Plaza Bldg.
845 Arnaiz Ave., Makati City
Philippines, 1200

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URGENT REQUIREMENT

Benefits, change, challenge, global - If these words appeal to you, join our team. At BayanTrade, we are changing how the world does business.

SAP Consultants

Responsibilities include:

- ☐ Working with the customer to blueprint processes to SAP solutions
- ☐ Designing and developing new solutions to address gaps between business requirements and the proposed solution
- ☐ System and acceptance testing

Requirements:

- ☐ Solid experience in SAP implementation, development, or support in any of the following SAP modules/areas: FICO, SD, PP, BW, MM, SRM, CRM, Basis, ABAP
- ☐ Outstanding analytical and project management capabilities
- ☐ Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- ☐ Excellent organizational skills
- ☐ Certification on any of the modules will be an advantage

Email:
noel.fontilla@bayantrade.com;
careers@bayantrade.com

Telephone No.:
+63.2.4219999

Fax No.:
+63.2.4372049

Address:
24/F IBM Plaza, Eastwood City
Cyberpark E. Rodriguez, Jr. Avenue
Libis, Quezon City 1110
Philippines

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CUSTOMER RELATIONSHIP MANAGER TRAINEES

Ideal candidates are fresh graduates with good academic records and are inclined to establish a career in sales; must possess excellent communications skills, dynamic, pro active; a team player and goal oriented.

Candidate shall undergo classroom and on the job training in sales and marketing prior to deployment.

ACCOUNT OFFICERS FOR TAIWAN BUSINESS

Responsible for development and management of loan portfolio.

Ideal candidate must be proficient in Mandarin and not more than 40 years old. With at least 3 years experience in account management; self-motivated and possess balanced marketing and credit skills.

COLLECTION OFFICERS FOR CREDIT CYCLE

Responsible for effectively managing delinquent loan portfolio and ensure investigation and resolution of problem accounts.

Ideal candidate must not be more than 35 years old and with at least 3 years of credit and collection experience; with good negotiating and people handling skills; result oriented and can work well under pressure.

COLLECTION ASSISTANTS (PROJECT HIRE)

Responsible for monitoring and collection of delinquent retail loan accounts.

Ideal candidate must not be more than 30 years old and with at least 1 year experience in collection. Must be flexible, results oriented and can work well in a fast paced environment.

BUSINESS MANAGERS FOR DOWNTOWN AREA

Responsible for attaining business unit's target volume through the development of a sound and aggressive program of account acquisitions, maintenance, and build-up.

Ideal candidate must be Chinese (Fookien &/or Mandarin) speaking and must have 3 years experience in branch banking particularly in sales and service management. Must be self – driven and with a proven track record in marketing deposit products.

Kindly e-mail your curriculum vitae with 2 x 2 photo to :
mimi.ismael@chinatrust.com.ph

International Rectifier

International Rectifier is a pioneer and world leader in advanced power management technology, from analog and mixed signal ICs to advanced circuit devices, power systems, and components.

IC Test Engineering Manager

Responsibilities

- Provide technical leadership in managing test systems and product engineering.
- Develop testing (software and hardware) to improve yields.
- Direct Data Analysis Techniques.
- Oversee F/A techniques for Power Discrete and ICs.
- Train and lead project management team to achieve processes breakthrough.

Job Requirements:

- BSEE or ECE with 15 years' experience in semiconductor testing.
- Experience in TESEC, TMTs Testers or equivalent platforms for Power IC testing.
- Good Knowledge of ATEs and tape and reel equipment.
- Preferably have experience in Assembly, F/A or Wafer Fab.
- With outstanding track record in new product qualifications, test systems installation and qualification.
- Assertive, goal-oriented and can drive issues up to GM's level for Fabs and Subcons.
- Hands on and have strong passion for details, process control and quality.
- Excellent verbal, written and presentation skills.
- A leader and motivator.
- Willing to travel.

Subcon Manager

Responsibilities

- Manage assembly operations in outsource semiconductor manufacturing.
- Oversee subcontracted product qualification activities in semiconductor manufacturing and nurture overall relationships with dept/senior level of management.

Job Requirements:

- BSEE/ECE/ME/CHE Degree holder, w/ MS Engineering Degree preferred.
- Minimum 15 years experience in semiconductor assembly with 5 years as operations/department manager.
- Operations management in Discrete or IC assembly, Epoxy D/A and Gold W/B, Mold, DTFS, plating process, testing, line audit, process control.
- Experience in training and project management.
- Hands on and have strong passion for details.
- Excellent communicator, oral and written, articulate and thorough.
- Strong passion for quality and process control.
- A leader and motivator.
- Assertive, goal-oriented and can drive issues up to GM's level for Fab and Subcons.
- Willing to travel.

The remuneration package and benefits will commensurate with the qualifications and experience of the selected candidates. Interested candidates, please send your resume' to intl rec@yahoo.com until March 28, 2005. (Only short-listed candidates will be notified).

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

RESTAURANT SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female with pleasing personality and good Interpersonal relationship with customers
- Graduate of HRM is an advantage

WAITRESSES/RECEPTIONIST/WAITERS

- Pleasing personality
- Graduate of HRM is an advantage

CASHIER

- Pleasing personality
- Experience in a restaurant/grille setting preferred

COOK/ASST. COOKS

- Experience in grille/restaurant is an advantage

Apply at: KARAMBA GRILLE
#49 Scout Torillo St., Timog, Q.C.
3:00 p.m. and up
(Monday to Saturday)

Bring: NBI Clearance, Certificate of Emp.

MARIA MONTESSORI
SCHOOL OF QUEZON CITY
is in need of

TEACHERS

With specialization in
Early Childhood Education, English,
Music, Physics, Office Secretary
and Science.

Qualified applicants may apply
in person with their
transcript of records and 2x2picture at:
116 Visayas Avenue, Quezon City.

A Filipino chain of restaurants with branches in the U.S. is in search of the following DYNAMIC people for its nationwide expansion program:

Field Operations Consultant – (FOC)

- ◆ Not more than 40 years old
- ◆ Graduate of BS HRM, Tourism, Business Administration or other related courses
- ◆ With strong background in restaurant operations as branch/store manager
- ◆ Self-directed, capable of managing a multi branches/stores
- ◆ Willing to do provincial assignments

Franchise Marketing Officer – (FMO)

- ◆ Not more than 35 years old
- ◆ Graduate of BS Marketing, HRM or other related courses
- ◆ Has solid experience in restaurant marketing program and store marketing activities
- ◆ Experienced in handling restaurant marketing events and coordination
- ◆ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- ◆ Proficient in English both in speaking and writing
- ◆ Self directed and able to work independently

Purchasing Assistant – (PA)

- ◆ Not more than 35 years old
- ◆ Graduate of BS Accounting or other related courses
- ◆ With at least 3 years experience in procurement, preferably in food industry
- ◆ With strong negotiation skills, a thorough approach and able to establish working relationships with suppliers and with customers

Technical Services Assistant – (TSA)

- ◆ Not more than 30 years old
- ◆ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Architecture
- ◆ With experience in project management, cost estimate, design, layout and architectural specification.
- ◆ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, AutoCAD)

Quality Assurance Representative – (QAR)

- ◆ Not more than 30 years old
- ◆ Graduate of Nutrition and Dietetics, Food and Technology or any related courses
- ◆ With hands on experience in manufacturing or food service
- ◆ Must have knowledge in Quality Assurance concepts, preferably ISO, GMP and HACCP
- ◆ Possess effective oral and written communication skills
- ◆ Must be objective with a high level of integrity and posseses good working ethics
- ◆ Must have knowledge in computer application (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- ◆ Must be willing to do provincial assignments from time to time

Branch Managers – (BM)

- ◆ Not more than 35 years old
- ◆ Graduate of BS HRM and other related courses
- ◆ 5 years working experience in restaurant operations; 3 years should be in Supervisory level
- ◆ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Kitchen Supervisors – (KS)

- ◆ Not more than 35 years old
- ◆ Graduate of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses
- ◆ 2 years working experience; 1 year as Asst. Kitchen Supervisor
- ◆ Has knowlege in menu planning, food costing and inventory management

Dining Supervisor – (DS)

- ◆ Not more than 35 years old
- ◆ Graduate of BS HRM or other related courses
- ◆ 2 years working experience as an Asst. Dining Supervisor or Captain Waiter
- ◆ With good customer relations skills

Bookkeeper – (BK)

- ◆ Not more than 30 years old
- ◆ Graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy
- ◆ At least 1 year experience in bookkeeping, preferably in restaurant setting
- ◆ Computer literate (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)

Please send your resumé with 2x2 photo to:

c/o P.O. Box KA-030-05 MF
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.
T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila
or e-mail resumé at **marjorieabad_marj@yahoo.com**

A food manufacturing company based outside Metro Manila as part of its continuing expansion and strategy to meet the prevailing business challenges, are currently looking for candidates for the following positions:

QUALITY CONTROL SUPERVISOR OR ANALYST

Male/Female, graduate of B.S. Food Science/Food Technology, B.S. Microbiology, B.S. Chemistry or any basic science course related to food production, processing and preparation (preferably with MA/MS degree or units), trained and has good auditing skills on GMP, HACCP or ISO 9000 standards and implementation (will be an advantage).

PRODUCTION ANALYST

Male graduate in Industrial Engineering, Industrial Management Engineering or any related course, had at least 2 years experience with food production or in line processing operation.

Other requirements needed for the above 2 positions are;

- willing to work beyond 8 hours
- flexible and willing to be assigned outside Metro Manila
- team player
- computer literate
- results driven and resourceful

3 LINE SUPERVISORS

Male/Female, graduate in B.S. Industrial Engineering or any related Engineering course with or without experience. Dedicated, can work under minimum supervision and willing to work on night shift.

Interested applicants may submit or mail their comprehensive resume indicating the position applied for and latest 2X2 picture to the address below. Indicate your contact number and you will be notified. Walk-in applicants will not be entertained

HUMAN RESOURCE DIVISION
582 Banawe Street, Barangay Sto. Domingo, Quezon City 1100

Canon

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc. (ci-tech), Canon's Product Research and Development center in Southeast Asia, develops products and technologies for imaging and networking. We seek to recruit engineers for our new projects. Comprehensive training programs and overseas travel opportunities provided to employees.

SOFTWARE ENGINEERS

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Engineering, Computer Science, IT or any related course
- Responsible for software development for future Canon products such as printers, copiers, and digital cameras
- Must have strong programming skills using C, C++, or Java
- Knowledgeable in algorithms, data structures and operating system concepts
- Comprehensive benefits and high salaries await successful candidates

Please send a copy of your comprehensive resumé
with recent passport-size photo and Transcript of Records to

Canon Information Technologies Philippines, Inc.
Human Resources Department
2nd Floor Techno Plaza One, 18 Orchard Road
Eastwood, Quezon City 1110

Or e-mail your resumé and Transcript of Records to recruitment@citech.com.ph

E. GANZON, INC. (EGI) is one of the foremost construction companies in the country. It also has among others, interests in real estate development and the hospitality industry. We are currently looking to fill positions within the holding company and its subsidiaries.

AUDITORS / GENERAL ACCOUNTANTS

Male/Female • Single • 25 to 35 years old • Accounting graduate from a reputable university • With at least 1 year experience in same capacity. • He/she must be conscientious, highly-analytical and willing to travel. • Must be well-versed in the different facets of accounting.

SALES & MARKETING SUPERVISOR / ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

With degree in Marketing, HRM, or related course • Not more than 32 years old • Must possess well-developed negotiation skills, is charming, dynamic, highly articulate and with proven track record. • Should be self-motivated and have at least 1 year experience in same capacity from the hotel and restaurant industry. • For account executive, fresh graduates are welcome to apply.

DORM MANAGER

With degree in Business Administration • Not more than 35 years old • Male/Female • Should be self-motivated and have at least 1 year experience in same capacity • With knowledge on how to handle dormitory and how to deal with different types of people.

Mail / Hand carry your resumé, credentials and most recent 2x2 colored photo to:

E. GANZON, INC.
7th Floor EGI Rufino Plaza, Taft Corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues, 1300 Pasay City
E-mail: egi.acc@pacific.net.ph

INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS, INC.

BANDERA / CEBU DAILY NEWS / TUMBOK

Which publishes Cebu Daily News has a vacancy for a

Senior Editor

- Five years editing experience in a news organization
- Above-average command of written English
- Supervisory and leadership skills
- High sense of public service
- Strong competitive drive
- Works well under pressure of daily deadlines
- College graduate
- Cebu resident

Account Executive

- A resident of Davao
- Has experienced in advertising
- Works independently
- Likes to do field work
- With pleasing personality, mature, good conversationalist, persistent and goal oriented.

Please send an application letter, resume and references to

Editorial Director
Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario Street, Cebu City

Email search@inquirerpublications.ph
aoasan@fep.ph
ailumin@fep.ph

WE BELONG TO THE TOP 5 IN THE AUTOMOTIVE ASSEMBLY INDUSTRY AND WE ARE LOOKING FOR ***HIGHLY-COMPETENT ENERGETIC YOUNG INDIVIDUALS*** WITH GLOBAL WORK ATTITUDE AND MIND-SET TO JOIN US AND TAKE THE CHALLENGE OF 2005 AND BEYOND.

MARKETING SPECIALISTS

Internal and external relations, liaison, communication and publications would be your main function. You should be able to work in a team to manage the conceptualization and development of different promotional activities and tools for Sales operations and services.

Preferably a graduate of AB Communication Arts, BS Marketing or AB Journalism; not more than 30 years old; and should be a licensed driver.

CORPORATE PLANNING SPECIALIST

The key person who will be conducting various research works relevant to business expansion and industry development, including, regular updates and analysis of consolidated business plan implementation.

A graduate of BS Business-Economics, BS Economics, BS Management or BS Engineering, preferably with MBA or MS in Economics; must have 5 years work experience in a corporate setting; with at least 3 years in research design and project management monitoring.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

You will be required to assist and attend to various needs and requirements of our top decision maker by preparing reports, correspondence, speeches and messages.

Graduate of any 4-year degree course; fluent in speaking, writing, reading both in English and Filipino; female; with at least 3 years work experience in a related field, a high level of computer literacy is a must.

IMAGE GIRL / RECEPTIONIST

Our front line communication person for company guests and visitors. You will handle all telephone calls and inquiries including effective use of PA and PABX system.

A graduate of any 4-year degree course; the job requires fluency in speaking, writing, reading both in English and Filipino; Female, Single, 20–25 years old; knowledgeable in business telephone procedures and etiquette; with excellent physical attributes and pleasing personality.

FINANCE SPECIALIST

You'll be responsible in preparation, monitoring and analyzing of financial reports. The job also entails preparation of the annual corporate budget with reference to company income and expenditures.

Must be a graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably a CPA; with at least 3 years work experience in Accounting and Finance functions between 25 – 35 years old.

WE OFFER A COMPETITIVE COMPENSATION PACKAGE. OUR OPERATION IS BASED IN STA. ROSA CITY, LAGUNA. IF YOU'RE THE ONE WE ARE LOOKING FOR, THEN, SEND YOUR COMPREHENSIVE CURRICULUM VITAE WITH YOUR LATEST COLORED PHOTO TO:

THE HRD MANAGER
P.O. BOX NO. 39937
LTI STA. ROSA CITY

CLARET SCHOOL OF Q.C.

Mahinhin St., UP Village
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 921-6587, 921-6617 loc. 203

is in need of

- **High School Teachers**
  - English, Filipino, Christian Living Education
- **Guidance Counselor**
- **Psychometrician**

Please apply in person or send the following: resumé with picture & contact number and photocopy of transcript of records & PRC rating.

DUNLOP

Is looking for qualified personnel to fill up the following positions

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Female/Acctg. Graduate
Not more than 27 yrs. old, computer literate
Can work diligently with minimum supervision
With good oral and written communication skills
Pleasing personality, trustworthy and hardworking
Very organized & responsible

SALES AGENTS

Aggressive, good PR skills
Extensive background experience
w/ corporate sales
Goal & performance oriented
Will be assigned to do fieldwork

Interested applicants may send resumé, 2x2 pic & transcript to:

TYREMART, INC.
347 Ortigas Ave., Greenhills East, Mandaluyong
Tel.# 727-6150/53

TechnoMarine GENÈVE

An exclusive distributor of sophisticated and elegant luxury timepieces is currently in need of:

SALES ASSOCIATES

Qualifications:

- Graduate of business related course from a reputable university or college
- Relevant work experience gained from a retail environment is an advantage
- Has good command of oral and written English
- Driven, charming, patient and has pleasing personality
- Male or female
- At least 22-29 years old

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- Graduate of BS Accountancy course from a reputable university or college
- Can ably deal with top level officers of the company
- Knowledgeable of all accounting procedures and systems
- Willing to work long hours specially during summer and peak seasons
- Has excellent computer skills in excel
- Personable and has good command of the English Language
- Preferably female
- At least 22-29 years old

Interested Applicants may drop their comprehensive resume with recent photo to the address below or may come personally on Mon-Fri 1PM-6PM at:

Human Resource Department
Unit 1504 15/F Orient Square Bldg. Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center Pasig City
Or email: roi.hr@eastern.com.ph
Contact Person: Ms. Shane Tarrayo

A leading Public Relations agency is in immediate need of

PR Executives & PR Staff Assistants

Applicants must be:

- Between 20-25 years old, male or female
- Graduates of Communications, Management, Journalism or Economics from leading universities
- Creative and equipped with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Hard-working, resourceful, organized and willing to learn

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumes, including position applied for, latest 2x2 photo and contact number, through the following:

Fax: **891-3431**
Email: **jobs@perceptions-inc.com**

Application documents should be sent in by 15 March 2005. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

ALTIGEN COMMUNICATIONS PHILIPPINES
is currently in need of

WEB DESIGNER

Responsible for the design, layout, updating and coding of web pages
Must be knowledgeable in HTML Hard Coding.
Basic Javascript
Must be knowledgeable using Adobe Photoshop, FTP Softwares
Must be very good in design

MARKETING/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

College graduate
With strong IT background
Ability to develop and execute aggressive sales, marketing strategies and good communication skills

Send a copy of your resume to:
jobs@altigen.com.ph or bring to
Suite 5D, 8101 Pearl Plaza, Pearl Drive,
Ortigas Center. Pasig City

WANTED
FASHION ACCESSORY DESIGNER

For export company with minimum 3 years experience. (21-30) yrs. old
Male or female.

Send resumé at:
834 Felipe Pike St. Bagong Ilog
Pasig City
671-1649 & 671-1655

WANTED
EXPERIENCED WAITERS, WAITRESSES & BARTENDER

Apply at KRUA THAI
The Blue Wave, Metropolitan Bank
Pres. Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard
cor. EDSA ext. Pasay City
Bring : ID, Biodata, NBI clearance

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

ACCOUNTANT/ASST. ACCTG. MANAGER

CPA preferred, w/ 3 yrs experience in the same capacity. Well versed in a computerized accounting system. Can work under pressure. Below 45YO

SALES & MARKETING OFFICER

College grad, major in Marketing preferred, w/ 3-5 yrs exp. in sales. Good communication skills, honest & efficient. W/ Managerial skills & knowledge in construction industry is an advantage.

SUBMIT RESUME w/ PHOTO & TRANSCRIPT
Knowledge of FOOKIEN is an added advantage

BLUE ROCK

BLUE ROCK AGGREGATES CORPORATION
Add. Suite 608 King Center, 57 Sgt. Rivera St., Q.C.
Tel. 330-2889 to 91 loc 122 & 109 Fax 367-0834
E-mail bluerock@versagroup.com.ph

We Build Progress

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

The country's leading newspaper is looking for:

DESK EDITORS

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Journalism or any Social Sciences course
- Must have 3 years experience in newspaper Journalism
- With at least 1 year experience in editing and designing/layouting pages

Responsibilities:

- Coordinates news gathering activities
- Edits stories and designs the layout of newspaper pages

CHANNEL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT

Qualifications:

- College graduate (any Business Course)
- At least 3 to 5 years circulation / marketing experience or equivalent experience in related field
- Communication skills, Entrepreneurship, Partnering/Networking, Negotiation skills, Presentation skills, Project Management skills, Familiar with Metro Manila streets and suburbs

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for monitoring of deliveries, returns and collections from institutional outlets, distributors and entrepreneurs in order to achieve high circulation output.
- Responsible for putting signages and billboard signs in various conventional outlets and intersection.

SECRETARY

Qualifications:

- College graduate, preferably B.S Secretarial Course
- 1 year experience in related job.
- Knowledge of basic office and e-mail software.
- Knowledge of basic computer program, Typing skills, Communication skills, Basic Writing skills, Interpersonal skills, Interpersonal skills, Filing skills

SUBSIDIARY CLERK

Qualifications:

- College graduate major in Accounting
- 1 year experience in this job or other similar jobs
- Knowledge of basic computer operation
- Accounting Skills, Filing Skills, Interpersonal Skills, Computer Skills

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for Advertising accounts receivables, checking of rebates, commission of direct and classified accounts.
- Responsible for reconciling accounts with clients and maintaining files of clients' vouchers and subsidiary ledgers of agencies, direct and other products.

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Qualifications:

- College graduate preferably Fine Arts major/Information Technology
- At least 2 years experience in this job or jobs leading to it.
- Knowledge of computer operations. Communication skills, Interpersonal skills, knowledge in Pagemaker, Corel Draw, Power Point and any Graphic applications.

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for the preparation of the ads and pages of the daily Classified Ads Section.
- Responsible in proofreading, layouting of ads, scans images and creating EPS (Encapsulated Post Script) in order to assist in achieving increase in market share.

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé or e-mail to:

HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

FOR CONDOMINIUM BLDG
IN MAKATI CITY

Project Planning, Scheduling & Monitoring Engineer

- Architect or Civil Engineer with at least 5 years relevant experience where 2 years of which as Planner & Scheduler
- proficient in MS Project
- preferably have worked in an engineering or quantity surveying firm

Safety Officer

- Architect or Civil Engineer
- have undergone the 40 hours Occupational Safety / Health Seminar
- preferably DOLE certified safety practitioner

CQC Officer

- Architect or Civil Engineer
- have worked as CQC Officer for at least 2 years

Field Engineers / Architects

- Architect or Civil Engineer
- Must have at least three years experience & will be responsible in supervising site works

Plant Supervisor

- Electrical or mechanical engineering graduate
- Must know how to prepare work program / schedules
- Will put in place safety and work operating procedures
- Will supervise plant daily activity
- Experience in woodworking environment is an advantage

Area Sales Manager and Sales Executives

- College Graduate and experienced in sales or architectural
- products such as Floorings, doors and windows, light, etc.
- will be assigned specific areas for sales saturation
- Must know how to drive vehicle & with valid driver's license

Accounting Assistant

- Minimum 2 years experience in accounting and inventory works

Company Electrician

- With experience in building & machineries electrical installations Motor rewinding and minor tools repair

Secretary / Executive Assistant

- Female, Single, at least 25 yers old, with pleasing personality & can speak and write good English

Warehouse / Inventory Clerk

- Must have experience in on - site construction receiving and issuance of materials, tools and equipment
- At least 2 years previous experience
- With Accounting background

Company Driver

- Must know how to drive 4 wheels and 6 wheels vehicles
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila area
- At least high school graduate with two years experience

Messenger

- Must know how to drive motorcycle preferably with own unit
- Must be familiar with Metro Manila area
- At least high school graduate with two years experience

Above candidates must be computer literate in WORD & EXCELL and may send their application via email, fax or delivered in person to ROVI MULTIPRODUCTS, INC.
Warehouse B-1 Lietz Industrial Complex, Edison Ave.,
Barangay Sun Valley, Parañaque City
Email rovimultiproducts@yahoo.com Fax: 823 5203

Ayala-based Advertising Agency needs

SENIOR ACCOUNT MANAGERS

We're looking for topnotch account managers with at least four years experience handling major packaged goods or consumer brands. Proven performers who can inspire a team of writers and artists and effectively present ideas to clients.

Please call Chie at 0922-390-7478

Work with the leading salon business and enjoy a lifetime career.

Apply for the following positions:

Sales Consultant / Representative

- Female, College graduate (Business, Marketing, Communications)
- Two (2) years marketing background
- Have project management and great people skills
- Willing to be trained in Sales for a U.S. Product
- Cheerful, Energetic
- Initiative, Fluent in English
- Can start immediately

Messenger / Encoder

- Male, not over 25 yrs. old
- Computer literate
- Can Drive

Executive Secretary

- Female, not over 30 yrs. old
- College graduate
- Organizational skills a must
- Computer literate

APPLY IN PERSON
Salon Systems Management, Inc.
Ground Floor, CSJ Bldg., 105 Aguirre St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City
M-T-TH-F 2:30-4:30 p.m. only

We're looking for the very best!

We're an Int'l Multi-Entertainment Media Co. representing various major US film studios, popular music labels, top TV production companies and trendy lifestyle/fashion brands. We're currently in need of unique, outspoken people who aren't afraid to swim against the tide. All positions require at least 2 - 3 years hands-on, working experience.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS (M/F)
26 - 32 YEARS OLD, EXPERIENCED IN MARKETING, SALES PROMOTIONS AND COPYRIGHT / TRADEMARK LICENSING

EVENT MARKETING EXECUTIVE (M/F)
25 - 32 YEARS OLD, ABLE TO SET STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR EVENT MARKETING THAT CAN TIE IN VARIOUS COMPANY OBJECTIVES WHILE BRINGING IN REVENUE THROUGH SPONSORSHIP AND TICKET SALES.

MARKETING ASSISTANTS (M/F)
22 - 25 YEARS OLD, ABLE TO ASSIST IN MARKETING, SALES, ADVERTISING, PROMOTIONS, PUBLIC RELATIONS, ETC

OTHER POSITIONS AVAILABLE ARE:
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS * ONLINE GAMERS
ACCOUNTING CLERKS * COMPUTER GRAPHIC ARTISTS
PUBLICITY & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS

Be sure to visit www.empiremultimedia.com for more details.

Send in your resume and passport size photo to:
P.O. BOX 455 GREENHILLS or e-mail it to:
empirent@mozcom.com

URGENTLY NEEDED

Professional Electrical Engineer: 30-35 years old, 5-8 years experience in cost estimating, design, project supervision & knowledgeable in CAD

Professional Mechanical Engineer: 30-35 years old, 5-8 years experience in cost estimating, design, project supervision & knowledgeable in CAD.

Structured Cabling Engineer: 30-35 years old, 5-8 years experience in cost estimating, design, project supervision & knowledgeable in CAD.

Apply with Resumé and 2 pcs. - 2x2 colored ID picture at: 2nd Floor, Almara Building near Honda Cars (on top of Chikurin Restaurant) Buencamino Street, Alabang, Muntinlupa City

Call Tel. Nos. 809-3289 and 809-3290

LAWYERS

Established Law Firm in Ortigas, Pasig needs Lawyers for its Corporate/Tax and Litigation/Labor Departments with the following qualifications:

❖ Graduate of UP, Ateneo or San Beda
❖ Preferably with at least two (2) years experience in trial practice or corporate/tax work

Compensation will be commensurate to experience. Send resumé with photo, sample of written work & transcript of records to:

2704 East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Ctr.
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

LausGroup
A Passion for Cars & Customer Care

We are a Group principally based in the City of San Fernando, Pampanga whose core business is automotive sales and services. Our dealerships are located in Quezon City, Marilao and Malolos in Bulacan, Mabalacat and City of San Fernando in Pampanga and cities of Olongapo, Tarlac, Cabanatuan and Dagupan.

As part of our continuing expansion and strategy to meet the prevailing business challenges we are currently seeking candidates for:

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT - HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

Responsibilities:

- Provide leadership to the human resources division in designing systems and developing policies for organizational effectiveness and employee satisfaction, including compensation and benefit systems, classification structures, recruitment and selection, employee development and training performance management, policy administration / compliance and employee relations.

Requirements:

- With extensive managerial experience in all facets of Human Resources Management
- Degree in Psychology or Behavioral or any relevant discipline, with MBA an advantage
- Preferably has background on legalities and labor relations
- Must possess proven leadership abilities and excellent interpersonal skills
- Exhibits excellent communication skills both oral and written
- Must be a resident of Central Luzon, Quezon City or nearby places

Hired candidates may expect competitive compensation packages as well as unlimited opportunities for career and personal development.

Qualified candidates may personally submit or mail their application letter, curriculum vitaé, recent 2"x2" photo, transcript of records & other pertinent credentials to:

The HR Manager
LausGroup Corporate Center
Human Resources Management Department
San Fernando-Olongapo Highway
City of San Fernando (P)
Tel: (045) 963-2525 Telefax (045) 961-56-18
E-mail: hrmd@lausgroup.com.ph

MEDTRONIX MEDICAL SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT
A fast growing company engaged in the distribution of various medical supplies & equipment is looking for

SALES EXECUTIVES (M/F)

Responsible in building & maintaining business relationships with current & prospective clients. He/she will help contribute to the achievement of the business sales quota, must be able to conduct product presentation & briefing to clients & ensure customer satisfaction by means of excellent customer service

- Medical/Business course graduate
- Able to relate well with customers
- Min. of 2 years experience in selling medical supplies
- Willing to be assigned in Manila office
- Tactful & with good communication skill
- Responsible, Honest, Trustworthy
- With pleasing personality

TECHNICAL/SERVICE MANAGER (M)

- Licensed ECE
- 23-35 years old
- At least 5 years work related experience
- With sound managerial skills
- Proactive and willing to learn
- Thorough and detail oriented
- Responsible and having self-initiative
- Preferably with driver's license
- Excellent in interpersonal relations and have good work habits
- Willing to do field work assignments in areas w/in Metro Manila, Vismin, and Northern Luzon

TECHNICAL/SERVICE ENGINEERS (M)

- Licensed ECE
- 23-35 years old
- At least 2 years work related experience
- With sound leadership skills
- Proactive and willing to learn
- Thorough and detail oriented
- Responsible and having self-initiative
- Preferably with driver's license
- Excellent in interpersonal relations and have good work habits
- Willing to do field work assignments in areas w/in Metro Manila, Vismin, and Northern Luzon

**All applicants for the above positions must be computer literate.

Please send resume to: The HR Officer
Medtronix Medical Supplies & Equipment
72-A Scout Limbaga St., Tomas Morato, Quezon City
or email at: medtronx@philonline.com

FinCorp
Finance Corporation Limited

HEAD OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Based in Papua New Guinea, this position requires an individual who is keen, enthusiastic and willing to go the extra mile. The role can be summarised as having end to end responsibility and ownership of the IT infrastructure, environment and systems strategy.

The successful person will act as the link, both commercially and functionally, for the investment in technology. The key is to enhance the delivery of critical functionality within the business and work with the business unit owners and executive team to develop a full understanding of the business direction, then to assess its impact on the business and translate this into a high-level business plan for the IT.

This will be undertaken whilst providing significant input and direction to business critical projects, communicating high level understandings and impact to business. An ability to conceptualise, launch and deliver multiple IT projects on time and budget is required. Knowledge of Oracle database would be an advantage

The Head of IT will take a leadership role in re-engineering processes through the development and deployment of "flow of business" systems to increase productivity in this high growth, complex, fasted paced environment. They will ensure seamless integration of data and information from the customer through financial statement and management reporting.

The role will be responsible for a large team and will effectively build that team whilst managing the people and processes of the IT group. The Head of IT will have superior conceptual skills and an orientation towards action and implementation - strategic as well as a pragmatic view.

Working in the largest consumer based Finance Company which prides itself on its customer service and speed to market. Expatriate remuneration will apply with airfares, accommodation, medical etc. If you are interested in this position please reply immediately to: (closing date March 18, 2005)

Group Manager
Human Resource & Administration
Email: hengstrup@fincorp.com.pg
Phone. (+675) 323 2399
Fax (+675) 323 0167
www fincorp com pg

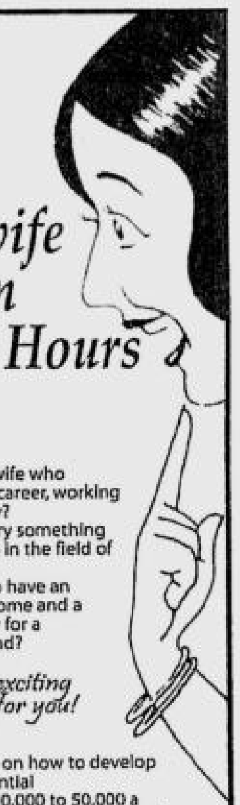
INTERSURGICAL
COMPLETE RESPIRATORY SYSTEMS

The Philippine subsidiary of a UK-based respiratory care company is in need of the following personnel:

MEDICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES
PHARMACIST
SECRETARY / ACCOUNTING CLERK

Applications may be submitted to the following address for immediate interview:

INTERSURGICAL (PHILIPPINES) INC.
8287 Sucat Road, S.A.V. 1, Parañaque City
email: intersurg_mktg@pacific.net.ph
Tel : +632 820 4124
Fax: +632 820 0301



A new Career for the Housewife who can Work 3 Hours a Day!

- Are you a housewife who would like a real career, working just 3 hours a day?
- Do you want to try something new and exciting in the field of education?
- Would you like to have an independent income and a chance to qualify for a conference abroad?

We have an exciting opportunity for you!

We offer:

- A FREE SEMINAR on how to develop your child's potential
- An income of P 10,000 to 50,000 a month depending on the amount of time invested
- FREE TRIP to other countries for further training
- A chance to own the programs for your children at almost NO COST to you

If you qualify come for interview:

Metro Manila
504 Galleria Corp. Center
Robinsons Galleria
Edsa Ortigas, Q.C.
Look for
Aileen Landicho

22/F Citibank Tower
8741 Paseo de Roxas
Makati City
Look for :
Annie Malabanan

1116 Quezon Avenue
Brgy Paligsahan Q C
Look for : Jonah

Cebu City Branch
301 B Mango Square Mall
Gen Max lim Ave Cebu
Look for: Sheila Sayabot/
Agnes Fuentes

Davao City Branch
Regina Comm'l Complex
C M Recto Davao City
Look for: Mody Aguelo

Baguio City Branch
Suites 3-M & 3-N
West Burnham Place
Kisad Rd. Chanum St
Baguio City
Look for:Lydia Dacanay

Pls. bring your Bio data and recent photo

URGENTLY NEEDS!!!

To all Filipinos in the 3 major island in the Phils.

OPEN TO ALL GRADUATES OR UNDERGRADUATES OF DIFFERENT COURSES EITHER 4 YRS. OR 6 YRS. ETC.

- male or female, age 19-45 years old, single or married with or without experience

EX-OFW's ARE ALSO WELCOME TO APPLY

FROM: TAIWAN, HONGKONG, JAPAN, RIYADH, JEDDAH, LONDON, CANADA, USA, DUBAI, etc., SEAMAN

FIRST 50 APPLICANTS WILL START IMMEDIATELY

VENUE OF HIRINGS: 235 C Mercan Bldg., EDSA Ext'n., Pasay City (near Edsa, LRT & Taft MRT Station, Going to Roxas Blvd near Allied Bank and Superbike Motors)

HIRING STARTS: March 7 - 11, 2005
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Please bring resumé or biodata & any credentials for your immediate interview.
Please apply in proper attire.
Clip this ad, no fees to be collected.
Look for Ms. Bheng

SOFT APP BUSINESS SOLUTIONS

PROGRAMMERS

FRESH GRADUATE ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY PROFICIENT KNOWLEDGE ON ANY OF THE FF: VB6, SQL SERVER, MS ACCESS, ASP

E-MAIL YOUR RESUMÉ:
softapp@qmail.com

SALES MANAGER

Monthly Salary: Pesos 60,000.00 ++

We are the leading ISO-Certified Manufacturing Service company in the industry partnering with the country's top 1000 corporation. To further strengthen our presence in the local market, we are looking for a highly motivated and success driven professional.

To be considered for interview, the interested applicant must possess the following qualifications:

- 30 to 45 years of age
- Mechanical or Industrial Engineering Graduate
- At least 3 years experience in the manufacturing process
- Must have extensive contacts with decision makers in the industries requiring these services
- Knowledge of the Japanese language is an advantage

Please send resumé with latest 2x2 photo and school transcript of records to the address below. Those presently earning less than Pesos 40,000.00 a month need not apply.

VICE PRESIDENT FOR
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

c/o Box KA-029-05 FI
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Trinity Bldg.
636 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila

TETRA TECH EM INC.

An environmental consulting company headquartered in Chicago, invites qualified candidates to apply for the position of:

FINANCIAL MANAGER

For its Philippine branch office

The Financial Manager will be responsible for the financial and accounting components of the company. He or she will be a key member of the executive management team helping the organization by highlighting its financial performances, providing financial analysis and recommendations, budgeting and forecasting, managing internal and external audits, cash management, cost component preparation for bids and proposals, project cost monitoring, profitability reports; assuring compliance with the reportorial requirements of funding agencies (USAID, World Bank, ADB, etc.) and the Philippine government regulatory commissions (Bureau of Internal Revenue, SEC, etc.).

The qualified candidate should have:

- A Degree in Accountancy/Finance
- CPA; MBA preferred
- Minimum of 5 years extensive work experience in financial management and supervisory capabilities
- Relevant experience working with USAID projects
- A strong ability to establish and utilize a computerized financial system, including familiarity with MS Excel, MS Word and Platinum Accounting System
- Excellent written and verbal skills

Tetra Tech offers a competitive salary and a fringe benefits package.

Please send your resume with your application letter and transcript of records not later than March 18, 2005 to:

Judy Despi
Tetra Tech EM Inc.
18-Floor, OMM-CITRA Building
San Miguel Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City
E-mail Address: despi_r@ttemi.com.ph

A manufacturing company employing more than 1,000 employees nationwide with head office in Makati and plant in Malolos, Bulacan is looking for dynamic individuals for the following positions:

MIS MANAGER

- Graduate of any BA or BS course
- Male not more than 40 years old
- Knowledgeable in Oracle ERP solution
- With at least 2 years' experience as IT or MIS Manager
- Will be handling Makati head office and Malolos plant and willing to travel to the branch offices.

HR SUPERVISORS

- With at least 3 years' HR specialization in either training or salary & benefits administration; with supervisory experience.
- Not over 32 years old and must be graduates of AB/BS Psychology or Behavioral Science courses.
- Highly proficient in oral & written English
- Adaptable and can relate effectively with people.
- Will be based in Malolos, Bulacan

Interested applicants are requested to personally apply or send/e-mail resume not later than **March 14, 2005** to:

Human Resources Department
55 Mc Arthur Highway, Bo. Tikay,
Malolos City, Bulacan
e-mail: egcoronel@mightycorp.com.ph

EDGE
Manpower & Consulting Group, Inc.
CONSULTANCY • TRAINING • OUTSOURCING

For Immediate Hiring

OUTBOUND CALL CENTER AGENTS

For the strategic marketing campaign of our North American clients.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Proficient in Conversational English
- Presentable, hardworking and persistent
- Preferably Single
- Fresh Grads are welcome
- Willing to work on graveyard shift
- Not more than 30 years of age
- Marketing/Sales experience is a plus

QUALITY CONTROL OFFICER

Responsible for meeting service level and response time objectives across all contact channels. Ensure effective and efficient utilization of resources. Plan, organize and manage operations workload through accurate forecasts, staff calculations, schedules and management reports.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Bachelor's Degree 4 year course
- At least 2 years work experience
- Strong motivator and a team player
- Well organized and able to handle multi-tasks effectively
- Action oriented but also results driven
- Supervisory experience with at least 4 people
- Field Sales experience is a plus
- Under 28 years of age.
- Preferably Female

TRAINERS

Responsible for developing, implementing, and modifying existing training programs to ensure the maximum effectiveness of the Contact Center. Reports on individual progress of agents and identifies additional training needs. Tests trainees to measure progress and to evaluate effectiveness of training. Develops training programs for new products and identifies trends that need training attention. Actively participate in cross-functional initiatives that result in the need for Contact Center procedures and training. Will assist in monitoring telephone calls and provide feedback to Customer Service Representatives as well as Team Leaders as it relates to assigned staff.

REQUIREMENTS:
- Minimum 3 years professional training experience; preferably 2-3 years training experience with a Call Center.
- Minimum 3 years experience in field, retail or corporate sales.
- Proficient in delivering technical subject matter as well as Customer Service soft skills.
- Excellent presentation and communication skills.
- Strong internal and external customer service skills.
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines.
- Strong organizational, analytical, and problem solving skills.
- Familiar with Adult Learning Principles.
- Strong computer skills

Walk-in Applicants may apply with resume and recent ID picture at
Unit 2102, SUNNETE TOWER, Durban St. corner Makati Avenue, Makati
or EMAIL your resume to: edge@mail2recruiter.com

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10 Telemarketing Representatives/Persons Needed And 10 Data Entry Positions

Qualifications:
- Excellent English comprehension (both oral and written)
- Telemarketing experience is a plus
- Computer literacy is a must
- College Degree, preferred
- Must be willing to work night shift

- ➢ Excellent incentive program based on performance.
- ➢ Interested applicants are encouraged to respond via e-mail.
- ➢ College level applicants are welcome to apply.

Please email resume to
jobs@carlintech.com
or fax to 817-2585

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ECEPRO
Training for Business

Do you know?...
There are about 5,000 establishments in the Graphic and Media industry? That seventy percent of them are based in Metro Manila?

Do you want to learn.... how YOU as a Graphic Artist can survive the highly competitive business of DESIGN and PRINT?

Please call 899-9414 or 635-0302 to reserve a seat.
Strictly maximum of 30 delegates per session. Classes will be held at the HP Education Center, 34th Floor, Robinsons Summit Center Building, Ayala Avenue, Makati City

the graphic artist as the digital enthusiast

17 March, Thursday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm [illegible] Delegate

Day 1
- Learn how to easily translate your creative inputs into a digital layout
- Experience step by step hands-on computer training and easy-to-follow design process and variation
- Know the techniques in producing attractive prints for your design studies.
- Learn the different specifications of indoor and outdoor media

the graphic artist as the art director

18 March, Friday, 8:30 am to 5:30 pm [illegible] Delegate

Day 2
- Learn how to retouch and enhance your visuals, overlay on backgrounds, do special effects, and other helpful tips
- Clean up your layout, learn the many trends and options to attain the desired look. Develop your own samples
- Know when to request for photography and when to use stock image
- Create the correct digital file specifications for digital and offset press
- Watch your own progress, hands-on computer trial until you achieve the best possible printing output

the graphic artist as the entrepreneur

19 March, Saturday, [illegible] Delegate

Day 3
- Learn the different creative avenues for the business-minded graphic designer. Develop your line of expertise, create your portfolio
- Set up yourself and your work area ready for business. Professionalism as a freelance designer takes some practice!
- Know about the copyright and related rights in the Philippines
- Learn how to explore possible suppliers as potential business partners
- Learn how to market yourself and your work, where to look for the market
- Learn how to develop your own marketing tools and client database.

ECEPRO
[illegible] Center, 210 Nicanor Garcia
Bel-Air Village, Makati City
E-mail us at [illegible]

A Multinational Japanese Trading Firm is Urgently in need of an:

ASSISTANT MANAGER

Qualifications

Male or Female, 30-35 of age
Graduate from a reputable university
Certified Public Accountant
Good experience / background in tax matters
Working knowledge / familiarity with IFRS (IAS)
At least 5 years work experience

Position for Manager may be open if qualifications of applicant are sufficient.

APPLY IN PERSON AND BRING YOUR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMé WITH TWO (2) 2 x 2 PHOTO TO:

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
9/F, L.V. Locsin Building,
Ayala corner Makati Avenue,
Makati City

WHY WORK IN THE GRAVEYARD SHIFT & LOSE OUT IN YOUR SOCIAL LIFE WHEN YOU CAN HAVE A DAY JOB WITH EQUAL SALARY

BANK BRANCH MANGER (TARLAC)
M/F; not more than 42 years old; excellent communication skills oral and written; must have at least 3 years work experience in account solicitation preferably in a bank setting.

TELLERS/NEW ACCTS CLERKS/ACCTG STAFFS/TEL OPRTORS
M/F. not more than 24 yrs old; Grad of any 4 yr bus course; comp literate; excellent com skills oral & written; w/ or w/o work experience.

HR ASSISTANTS
Female; not more than 24 yrs old; BS/AB Psy grad; computer literate; excellent com skills oral & written; w/ at least 6 mos rel work exp.

RECEPTIONISTS (Laguna)
Female; not more than 25 yrs old; at least 5'6"in height; Grad of any 4 yr course; excellent communication skills; Highly personable.

ACCOUNTING CLERKS
M/F; at least 23 yrs old; 2 yrs exp in acctg; above ave com skills; computer literate

OFFICE STAFFS
M/F; not more than 25 yrs old; Comp Sci grad; above ave com skills.

SALES ASSOCIATES
M/F; not more than 28 yrs old; at least 2nd yr college;5'2"for female 5'6" for male; w/ rel work exp in sales; above ave communication skills

MARKETING OFFICER (in house)
Female; Grad of any 4 yr course; at least 28 yrs old; w/ existing contacts in the field she will service;excellent communication skills

RECRUITMENT SPECIALIST (in house)
M/F; Grad of any 4 yr course; at least 25 yrs old; extensive experience in mass recruitment for both white and blue collar jobs; resourceful, articulate and creative; independent and fast worker; computer literate.

MANAGEMENT STAFF (in house)
Female; grad of any 4 yr course, 25-30 yrs old; excellent com skills; computer literate; 4-6 yrs experience as any of the ff: exec sec/admin staff/acctg staff/ trainor.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY LOG ON TO OUR WEBSITE
www.stepinconline.com
or bring your resume with ID pic and requirements at :
SKILLS & TALENT EMPLOYMENT POOL INC.
1502 ONE SAN MIGUEL AVE BLDG, SAN MIGUEL AVE COR SHAW BLVD
PASIG CITY (6873674/9100047) EMAIL: ***stepinc2005@yahoo.com***
MEMBER: PALSCON PMAP

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005
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JOB Market ONLINE
www.jobmarketonline.com

JOB*Market* is exclusively for job advertisements. This special section comes FREE with your copy of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION
e-mail address: jobmarket@inquirer.com.ph
Main Office: Pasong Tamo, Makati City
☎ 8978425 (Direct) ☎ 8978808 (Trunk) Fax 8978425
G/F Atrium Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
☎ 8114361 ☎ 8114370 ☎ 8114012 Fax 8925578
St. Anthony's Bldg., Aurora Blvd., Quezon City
☎ 9129008-11 Fax 9129011
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F Trinity Bldg., 636 T.M. Kalaw St., Manila
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5224406 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
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Text us your feedback: Inquirer jm name/city/message. Send to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

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POSITIONS

1. HR Head
   - Graduate of Psychology, Behavioral Science, or any related course
   - Must have at least 10 years experience in a similar capacity
   - Plans, strategizes, implements and maintains all HR policies and programs

2. Training Head
   - Graduate of Human Resources Management, Psychology or Behavioral Science
   - Must have at least 5 years extensive exposure in the administration of Training Needs Analysis, development of Course Curriculum; development, implementation and evaluation of training programs; preparation, justification and monitoring of Training and Organizational Development budget

3. Finance Head
   - Preferably a Certified Public Accountant, or a graduate of any business course
   - Must have at least 8 years experience in various internal and external reporting requirements, management of cost and budget

4. Operations Head
   - Graduate of any 4-year course
   - Must have at least 5 years solid managerial experience gained from a call center or service-oriented environment. Previous experience in a multinational company would be a definite advantage.
   - Plans, deploys, coaches and supervises Account Supervisors

5. Quality Head
   - Graduate of Industrial/Management Engineering, or any related discipline
   - Must have at least 5 years experience in Quality Assurance, preferably gained from a call center environment
   - Must have knowledge of Quality Control tools, quality systems analysis and industry best practices
   - Must have excellent communication skills

6. IT Head
   - Graduate of Computer Science/ Information Technology or its equivalent
   - Must have at least 5 years experience in a similar capacity
   - Plans, directs, and controls systems development activities of the unit (i.e. systems design, installation and programming work for various company systems)
   - Manages information security and MIS
   - Must be knowledgeable with Voice & Data

7. General Manager
   - Graduate of any 4-year course
   - Must have at least 5 years experience in a similar capacity
   - Executes strategic and annual plans to ensure that performance targets of the company
   - Directs, manages and monitors, through the respective managers, relationships with existing and/or prospective customers and other alliances.
   - Establishes and implements appropriate company-wide policies, programs and strategies.
   - Must have the capability to demonstrate cost effectiveness, profitability, efficiency, productivity, high employee morale and strict compliance.
   - Must have leadership, analytical and negotiation skills.

8. Accounts Director
   - Graduate of any 4-year Business course
   - Oversee the general activity of Account Managers in terms of client call and territorial management
   - Plans and recommends sales strategies to management in terms of budget and activities.

9. Workforce Capacity Planning Manager
   - Graduate of any 4-year Business/IT course or its equivalent
   - Must have at least 1 year experience in a similar capacity gained from a call center
   - Compares call forecasts created from client-generated forecasts
   - Identifies scheduling gaps and offers solutions
   - Performs real-time adjustment according to call flow
   - Must have strong analytical, problem-solving and communication skills

10. Systems Administrator
   - Graduate of any 4-year IT-related course
   - With at least 1 year work experience in security operations
   - Ensures information security through the proper assignment of user access rights based on approved system matrices and through daily monitoring of access logs
   - Assists in the development and update of information security processed

11. Team Leaders
   - Graduate of any 4-year course
   - Must have at least 1-year supervisory experience in a call center environment with extensive exposure in coaching and performance management
   - Must have strong communication skills, interpersonal skills and the ability to motivate others
   - Must have the capacity to achieve organizational goals
   - Must be willing to work during graveyard shift

12. Technical Support Representative
   - Graduate of any 4-year course
   - Must be knowledgeable in computer hardware, network, operating systems, software and protocols.
   - Provides technical support ranging from installation assistance for consumer DSL customers to a broad variety of desktop support for all internet access services
   - Must have solid English communication skills
   - Must be willing to work on shifts particularly at night
   - Microsoft Certification is a decided advantage

13. Customer Service Representative
   - Graduate of any 4-year course
   - Must have at least 1-year customer service or telemarketing experience preferable gained from a call center industry.
   - Provides a variety of customer-based services through inbound and outbound calls, email and online web chats:
   - Must have excellent communication, listening and problem-solving skills
   - Must be willing to work on shifts, particularly at night

14. Multi-Lingual Representative
   - Graduate of any 4-year course
   - Must have at least 1 year customer or telemarketing experience preferably gained from a call center industry
   - Must be proficient in any of the following languages: Japanese, Cantonese, Mandarin or Korean

15. On-Site Engineers (Manila/Cebu)
   - Graduate of ECE, CoE or Computer Science
   - Must have experience in installation, management and maintenance of recording systems
   - Must have good customer relationship skills
   - Must be willing to work on shifting schedules
   - Preferably Cisco / Microsoft / Linux / Novell / Avaya Certified

DTSI

Interested parties should send their resume to rms.support@dtsi.com.ph

Previous applicants need not apply.

Rustan Marketing Corporation

Is in immediate need of top caliber individuals…

SALES MANAGER FOR HOME CARE
SALES MANAGER FOR FRAGRANCES AND COSMETICS

- Between 26-35 years old; pleasing personality
- Graduate of a four-year business related course
- With at least two (2) years managerial experience in a direct/retail selling environment
- Preferably with experience in distributing consumer products
- Creative and with excellent communication skills
- Must be computer literate

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

- Between 26-35 years old; pleasing personality
- Must be a Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Must have at least two (2) years related work experience in a managerial capacity
- Must be proficient in MS office applications (Excel/Word/Powerpoint)
- Must have strong financial systems background, Platinum for Windows or its equivalent
- Must be proficient in both oral and written communications

QUALIFIED APPLICANTS ARE REQUESTED TO SEND OR E-MAIL IMMEDIATELY THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUME, TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS AND A RECENT 2X2 PHOTO TO:

Rustan Marketing Corporation
Human Resource Management Division
(C/o Executive Administration)
Ground Floor Midland Buendia Bldg.
403 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
E-mail address: embaysa@rgoc.com.ph

(We will reply to qualified applicants only)

Associate Systems Programmer

The position evaluates, installs and maintains systems to protect ADB's network infrastructure from harmful software (viruses, spyware, spam and others); monitors the presence of harmful software in ADB's network, and the development and trends relating to harmful software in general.

Reporting Arrangements

The position reports to the Senior Information Systems and Technology Specialist, Office of Information Systems and Technology (OIST).

Description of Responsibilities

1. Installs, configures, tests and maintains hardware and/or software, to ensure that these meet required functionality, performance, and compatibility standards;
2. Assists and advises systems development projects in the design and implementation of server and network infrastructure, especially with respect to Windows-based components;
3. Plans for, and manages, virus outbreaks and other emergencies caused by harmful software;
4. Communicates with system vendors to identify solutions to system problems, explores capabilities of software under development, and maintains current knowledge of technology, ensuring up-to-date knowledge of network and computer operating systems trends and developments; and
5. Prepares guidelines, briefings, documentation and metrics relating to harmful software.

Selection Criteria

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level;
- a bachelor's degree in either Computer Science or Information Technology (IT), Electronics and Communication Engineering, Electrical Engineering, or related area;
- at least five years relevant experience, four years of which are in the implementation and administration of network infrastructure, including firewalls, proxies, e-mail/SMTP, anti-virus systems and Windows servers and desktops;
- specialist-level knowledge of virus and other harmful software;
- ability to visualize the operation of a large-scale IT network comprising switching devices, gateways, servers and workstations; and
- strong communications skills (oral presentations and technical writing).

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its (national officers or administrative staff) locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS05-005(4)-OIST** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on http://www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **11 March 2005.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

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and must be comfortable working with accounting software.

A LOGISTICS BACKGROUND
& demonstrated, successful **SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE** are a definite plus.

Your primary responsibilities will include Internal & External reporting requirements, Payroll, Billing & Invoicing. On occasion, you will be asked to help coordinate international shipments, liaising with our suppliers around the world.

Are you comfortable communicating with people (in person, over the telephone or by fax and e-mail)? Are you an efficient self-starter with lots of initiative and the ability to multi-task? Do you have a good sense of humor?

If this long-term career opportunity with our mid-size company appeals to you, please send your resumé (with your most recent, verifiable work references) to:

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9th Floor, DPC Place Building
2322 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati 1222
Fax 02.889.9064 pilar@elements.com.ph**

Priority will be given to resumés that reach us on or before MARCH 8th.

De La Salle University
Manila

The Information Technology Center is in need of qualified professionals to fulfill the following positions:

Data Administration Office Department Head

- Bachelor of Science degree holder in Information Technology, Computer Science or related field
- Has at least four (4) years relevant experience in systems analysis, design and implementation, and technical documentation
- Has specialized training in programming, database design, IS audit, and data management
- Has specialized training or relevant experience in project management
- Can create and maintain an enterprise data model
- Can define data standards
- Has supervisory skills
- Good in oral and written communication

Software Architect

- Bachelor of Science degree holder, preferably Computer Science or related field
- Specialized training in systems analysis and computer programming languages such as Visual Basic, Oracle Developer or ASP
- Has at least one (1) year industry experience in systems analysis
- Knowledgeable in system maintenance and development
- Preferably knows forms design
- Has good analytical skills
- Good in oral and written communication

Software Developer

- Bachelor of Science degree holder, preferably Computer Science or related field
- Has specialized training in logic formulation and computer programming languages such as Visual Basic, Oracle Developer or ASP
- Knowledgeable in system maintenance and development
- Has good analytical skills
- Good in oral and written communication

Interested applicants can submit an application letter indicating the position applied for, two 2" x 2" colored picture, resumé and Transcript of Records to MallareS@dlsu.edu.ph or to: **The Director, Information Technology Center**, Room 308 Gokongwei Building, De La Salle University-Manila, 2401 Taft Avenue, 1004 Manila

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A young, dynamic and fast rising company in the fields of dermatology and cosmetic products is in need of competent, aggressive, energetic and self-motivated individuals to occupy the following positions:

TECHNICIAN

- Graduate of any related course on Electronics or Electrical Engineering (EE, ECE) or Vocational course on that field.
- At least one to two years experience in Electronics Circuit and PCB Component level troubleshooting.
- Able to interpret Block and Circuit Diagrams.
- Demonstrated skills in the following:
    - analysis and timely decision making
    - time management
    - written and oral English communications
    - human relations
- Physically fit
- Customer oriented and team player
- Professional and values-based in conduct and appearance
- Can work well under pressure
- With driving experience and with valid driver's license (not a must but will be an advantage)

SECRETARY

- Bachelor degree in Business Administration/other relevant courses
- Must have at least two (2) years work related experience
- Computer literate
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills

Please send your resumé with 2x2 colored picture to the following address:

SPECTRUMED INC.
1504-East Tower, Philippine Stock Exchange Ctr.
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

or send thru e-mail at: myra@spectrumed.com.ph

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BRANCH MANAGERS
for
Bataan (BAT) and Zamboanga (ZAM)

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible for planning, organizing, directing, coordinating, and controlling the activities of the Branch to achieve its overall objectives and targets.
- Responsible in upholding the company's image by maintaining and observing the standard operational procedures.

QUALIFICATIONS

- College graduate, preferably business/finance related courses; post graduate studies, an advantage
- Must have at least 3-4 years experience in managing and supervising operations in a service-oriented organization.
- With excellent planning, analytical, and selling & negotiating skills.
- Must be able to communicate effectively (written and verbal) to all types of people.
- Computer literate
- Physically fit and of good moral character.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
for
Metro Manila (MNL), Bataan (BAT), Laguna (LGN), Batangas (BGS), Lucena (LCN), Bacolod (BCD), Davao (DVO)

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible for selling and promoting *WWWExpress* domestic services; maintaining existing accounts and developing new accounts for the company. Conducts regular sales calls and attends to clients' needs.

QUALIFICATIONS

- College graduate, preferably business related courses
- With proven relevant experience, skill, and training in sales
- With pleasing personality; maintains good grooming habits and professional decorum
- Must be able to communicate effectively (written and verbal) to all types of people
- Aggressive and with excellent negotiating skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to do field work and be assigned in branches indicated above (residents of the provinces mentioned above will be of advantage)
- Physically fit and of good moral character

TRAINING SPECIALIST
for HR Department

JOB DESCRIPTION

- Responsible for the training and development of the company's employees through in-house programs or by liaising with third party trainers. Generally involved in the coordination, design, execution, and actual facilitation of the training sessions. The job is preparatory for supervisory position.

QUALIFICATIONS

- A graduate of Psychology, Mass Communications, or any Behavioral Science courses, or must have earned equivalent / relevant skills as a trainer.
- Not more than 28 years old and with pleasing personality
- Must have keen interest in doing research and presentation
- Computer literate
- Willing to do field work and travel around the country
- Physically fit and of good moral character

Interested applicants must submit their comprehensive resume, preferably with scanned 2x2 color picture, at **hiring.now@wwwexpress.com.ph**. Kindly indicate applied position as your subject.

Or send it to the Human Resources Department, Wide Wide World Express Corporation, Pascor Drive Sto. Niño, Parañaque.

For immediate processing of application, applicants are encouraged to submit the above mentioned requirements on or before March 15, 2005.

A fast growing w/ 10 years of service Medical Laboratory Clinic based in Marikina is in need of additional

MED-TECH

- male/female, not more than 35 yrs. old
- preferably a resident of Marikina, San Mateo-Montalban, Cainta, Pasig, Quezon City, Taytay or Antipolo
- experience and computer literacy an advantage

Please send your resumé w/ picture to:

**The GOOD SHEPHERD
Medical Diagnostic and Laboratory**
19-Bayan-Bayanan Ave., Concepcion
Marikina City 1800

We are also in need of additional:

**X-RAY/ULTRASOUND TECHNICIAN
MEDICAL SECRETARY
COMPUTER SECRETARY/TECHNICIAN**

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IT CROSSINGS - MANILA, INC., is an information technology outsourcing firm formed to cater to the Life and Health Insurance Industry. This new firm will provide insurance companies with affordable IT services from its offices in Net One Center, Bonifacio Global City. IT Crossings is a subsidiary of US based **LIDP Consulting Services Incorporated**, the premier provider of software solutions to Life and Health Insurance Industry. For 25 years LIDP has provided enterprise software and consulting services to many of the top insurance companies worldwide. IT Crossings will enable LIDP to continue to provide superior service to it's clients from it's Taguig offices. These services include conversion, interface, enhancement and testing support covering all areas of insurance operations.

We are currently in need of a:

JAPANESE TRANSLATOR

The Job:
The individual will be translating technical and end user documentation and screens from English into Japanese. Also, he/she will be asked to assist in marketing and sales activities as the translation progresses.

Requirements:
- Candidates should have an extensive experience in translating English to Nihonggo
- Candidates should possess fluency both in oral and written English
- Life insurance background is preferred
- Must be computer literate

Competitive remuneration packages awaits qualified candidates. To apply, forward your resume to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
Unit 5-3 Net One Center
Bonifacio Global City
Taguig, Metro Manila
Fax No: 815-4936
E-mail: resume@itcrossings.com

A leading group based in Dubai UAE with varied business interests including Design, hotels real estate, manufacturing, etc. is planning to expand its Manila branch office for their Design & Engineering Division. For the same they require the following:

SR. STRUCTURAL ENGINEER
SR. MECHANICAL ENGINEER
MECHANICAL ENGINEER
ARCHITECT

- Licensed Engineers and or Architects, graduates from reputable universities preferably with US/UK qualifications
- Must have hands-on experience in CAD-CAM and other latest equipment and software.
- Must have experience in design and supervision of construction of multi-storey Buildings, hotels, villas etc.
- Hands-on work experience in the same position min. 12 years for Sr. Position & 8 years for non-senior position.
- Capable of managing and recruiting a team of junior staff for his own department.
    - Must be fluent in written and oral English.

CADD OPERATORS

(ARCHL, STRUCTL, MECH, ELECT, SANITARY)
Male or female, degree holder with minimum 5 years experience Preferably in high rise buildings for each discipline.

ATTRACTIVE RENUMERATION PACKAGE COMENSURATE TO EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATION AND COMPARABLE TO THE BEST IN THE MARKET.

Please send in your resume to Ms Julie B. Tac-an Unit 705 Antel 2000 Corp Ctr 121 Valero St., Salcedo Vill. Makati City Email: jbtac-an@arencomanila.com.ph

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Christian Aid

Work for an organisation where life comes first.

Half the world lives in poverty. Christian Aid is striving for wholesale change to rules that keep people poor. We work wherever the need is greatest, giving people strength to find their own solutions to the problems they face, irrespective of their religion. So if you're passionate about helping others, and want to help us drive positive change across the world, join us.

Country Representative Philippines
Based in Manila
24 month fixed-term contract

Are you a development professional willing to represent Christian Aid, manage and develop our programmes in the Philippines?

You will be responsible for appraising, monitoring and reviewing partner organisations' projects; working with and supporting partners and the wider NGO community; supporting partners through advocacy and communications. You will also manage staff and consultants as well as preparing for and responding to emergencies. You will strengthen relationships with churches, donors and other international agencies. You will develop and ensure implementation of country strategy, strengthen the capacity of local partners and ensure that Christian Aid complies with legal requirements.

With a minimum of ten years' experience of international development work, including experience of working with a grass-roots organisation in the Philippines. You should be able to apply your experience of development project management in NGOs and of staff and resource management, including distance management.

We value the contribution each and every one of our people makes to the success of our organisation. That's why you can expect a wide range of rewards and benefits, including a generous holiday allowance, pension, and flexibility that will ensure you enjoy a good work/life balance.

Christian Aid values diversity and aspires to reflect this in its workforce. We welcome people from diverse backgrounds, culture and experience.

We particularly welcome applications from Filipino nationals and only candidates that meet the criteria.

**Job Reference: 1035/SM
Closing date for applications: Monday 31st March 2005
Interviews: Thursday 14th April 2005**

For further details and application form, please visit our website:
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Sales Executive

He/She will be responsible for:

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- Developing accurate customer profile
- Acquiring market information

Knowledge, Skills, Abilities & Experience:

- Strong sales and marketing orientation
- Positive attitude
- Good negotiation skills
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be a team worker
- Experience in warehousing industry
- Reliable, energetic and with sense of commitment and urgency

Other Qualifications:

- Graduate of any related course
- Male/Female
- 21 to 38 years old

Please submit letter of intent and credentials to:
Mr. Noel B. Hernandez
Cadence Warehousing Co., Inc.
426 P. Casal Street, Quiapo, Manila
02-7369485

UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

NOTICE OF JOB VACANCY

VACANCY NO.: 2005/03-EXT
DATE ISSUED: 06 MARCH 2005
CLOSING DATE: 18 MARCH 2005

POST TITLE : **Programme Assistant-Peace and Development**
ENTRY LEVEL : **ICS 5**
OFFICE AND LOCATION : **Peace and Development Portfolio UNDP Manila**
TYPE OF APPOINTMENT : **Fixed Term**
DURATION : **One-Year Appointment**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:
Under the immediate guidance and supervision of the Portfolio Manager, the Programme Clerk will perform a variety of tasks and functions in support of Peace and Development Portfolio programmes and projects. Specific tasks include financial monitoring and management and administrative assistance to support UNDP priorities and initiatives on peace-building and conflict prevention.

1. Financial Management and Administrative Support to Portfolio Programmes/Projects

1.1. Financial Management and Monitoring

- Ensure timely receipt monitor and review quarterly and annual financial reports and documents including the work and financial plan; and undertake appropriate consultations with programme partners to ensure appropriateness, completeness and accuracy of reports before submission to concerned UNDP units;
- Ensure completion, review and reconcile Combined Delivery Reports (CDRs) with existing financial reports and other expenditure reports of programmes and projects;
- Ensure regular monitoring of the financial status and projected expenditures of portfolio programmes and projects; prepare periodic financial monitoring reports to the Portfolio Manager (PM) with appropriate recommendations and advise;
- Ensure, track and maintain monthly updated records and communication on the status of donor contributions, allotment against obligations, expenditures against programme/project budget and financial reports of portfolio programmes and projects; Lead in providing regular analysis on resource picture and expenditures of programmes and projects; and Design and execute the regular financial monitoring reports.

1.2. Financial Administration

- Review and execute budget revisions/rephasing to ensure adequate resource allocationsand reflect-budget adjustments;
  Prepare Annual Work Plan (AWP) and administer the Enterprise Resource Programme (ERP)/ATLAS for the Portfolio in close coordination with executing agencies and Programme Management Offices (PMOs);
- Monitor and follow-up timely transfer of requests for cash advances and payment requests based on the approved annual work plan to ensure that programme/project partners have adequate funds for implementation;
- Ensure and maintain financial records of the programmes/projects such as the recorded expenditures of the Country Office (Ca), UNDP Headquarters and other Country Offices, Executing and Implementing Agencies including participating UN agencies; and recommend remedial actions as necessary;
- Provide/exchange regular feedback with staff counterparts of Executing/Implementing Agencies and PMO5 in the review and approval of financial and personnel requests and endorsements;
- In coordination with the Executing/Implementing agencies/PMO5, facilitate the financial closure, transfer of equipment and other requirements for the closure of programmes/projects; and
- Draft routine correspondences, follow-up and respond to queries on portfolio programme matters.

1.3. National Execution (NEX) and Administrative Support

- Provide appropriate advise to executing/implementing agencies and Programme Management Offices (PMOs--on UNDP policies and procedures for programrtieS?projects under National Execution (NEX) modality;
- Assist in the review and evaluation of technical proposals and contracts, assessing completeness and adequacy of outputs to ensure proper delivery of subcontracted activities;
- Establish and maintain liaison with staff counterpart of UN/UNDP units, Executing/Implementing agencies, PMOs and other partners to facilitate the delivery of programme support requirements such as recruitment of programme staff and other activities; and
- Lead in facilitating and provide inputs in the conduct of programme audits.

1.4 Strategic Partnerships

- Assist in packaging of programme proposals/documents and briefing materials for potential donors and programme contributors; and
- Provide secretariat support to the conduct of Mindanao donor meetings.

2. Knowledge Management and Other Functions:

2.1 Knowledge Management

- Maintain and organize the Portfolio knowledge products, Portfolio programme reports and documents, and other portfolio monitoring reports required by the CO and HO;
- Participate in CO, regional and practice area network discussions; and
- Maintains consultancy database of consultants, terms of reference and proposal–.

2.2 Other Functions

- Provide support in organizing national and international missions, meetings and conferences of portfolio-related activities;
- Respond to queries on programme and project-related concerns;
- Prepare and update schedules of meetings and appointments for the Unit.
- Participate in meetings and conferences as may be assigned; and
- Perform other tasks as may be assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's degree in Business or Public Administration, Economics, Accounting or other related field; certified public accountancy an advantage;
- At least 3-4 years professional experience in financial administration and management or in related administrative support services;
- Experience in UNDP NEX programming procedures an advantage;
- Proficiency in the use of automated financial system preferably the ERP/ATLAS System, and various software applications (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Internet, etc.) and office equipment including computer, fax, photocopier, scanner and typewriter
- Good communication skills, both oral and written
- Excellent interpersonal skills

The selected candidate will receive a salary depending on his/her background and work experience. Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form(P.1 1), available in our website www.undp.org.ph/jobs and send to:

Human Resources Management Unit
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City

Indicating the Vacancy No. and the Post Title on or before 18 March 2005. Kindly note that only completed P.11 forms will be reviewed.
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1. Account Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Understanding customer requirements and feedback on market information.
- Involving in all activities to ensure the establishment of the brand.
- Discovering sales opportunity and achieving the sales targets with pre-sales team.
- Responsible for credit collection with Finance team.

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications, Electrical, Computer Science or relevant area. MBA preferred.
- Minimum 2 years experience in telecommunication field.
- Familiar with international trading, international law, business management knowledge, credit collection, and finance management, bidding procedure etc.
- Excellent verbal and written English.
- Mandarin Speaking is an advantage

2. Product Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Planning competitive strategy including business plan and action plan, based on the business opportunities and threats, for the accounts together with the Account Manager.
- Supporting pre-sales activities by responding to RFI, RFQ, RFP, preparing and delivering customer technical presentation and demonstration
- Marketing Huawei product and network concept and solutions
- Supporting all product promotion related activities
- Developing and managing regional channel partners of data communications products and establish regional channel system (Product Manager of Data Communication).

Requirements

- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunications, Computer Science or relevant area
- Minimum 2 years experience in related field
- Solid technical background of Telecommunications
- Planning and presentation delivering skills
- Good verbal and written communication skills in English.
- Mandarin Speaking is an advantage

3. Project Manager

Main Responsibilities

- Planning and controlling of survey, installation, testing, commissioning, material and logistics forwarding including delivery of equipment to site;
- General controlling over engineering activities including exchanging of plans, drawings and other information with customers, approval of equipment layouts and network configuration data;
- Supervision and control over sub-contractors to strictly comply with the relevant conditions of the contract
- Participate in bidding activities, identify implementation requirement from tender document, plan resources and budget as well as make out solution for customer implementation demand and undertake procurement management when necessary.

Requirements

- At least two years' working experience in telecommunication project management.
- At least Bachelor Degree of telecommunication engineering or electronics engineering.
- Mandarin Speaking is an advantage

4. Technical Support Engineer

Main Responsibility

- Promotion of radio network planning & optimization technique.
- Participate in the GSM/GPRS/CDMA/3G Network planning in the Asia-Pacific Region.
- Participate in the pre-sales support for GSM/GPRS/CDMA /3G projects.
- Perform post site-sales service such as site survey, installation, commissioning and maintenance.
- Provide post sales technical support to customers via remote and on-site trouble shooting and
- Rectification.
- Ensure a high level and constant technical advice to customers.

Requirements

- Bachelors degree in Electronics, Electrical, telecommunications or related filed.
- At least 3 years experience in telecommunications systems design and engineering.
- Experience in GSM service operator and GSM equipment vendor environment.
- Excellent communication and presentation skills.
- Mandarin Speaking is an advantage

5. LOGISTICS COMMERCIAL OFFICER

Responsibilities

- Manage and perform Logistics functions including warehouse, inventory control, distribution, import & export, purchasing functions according to local rules and regulations.
- Responsible for supervision of logistic department and to ensure that Logistics service levels fulfills all Company expectations.
- Cooperate with commercial department to analysis weekly and monthly order and delivery status by customer and product.
- To maintain a good relationship with customers and develop efficient communication channel with customers.
- Cooperate with Logistics Manager to make improvement plans and carry our Regional Logistics Projects.

Requirements:

- Bachelors Degree or above in logistic or related area
- Ability to work in independently result-oriented with excellent interpersonal and communication skills; good at information gathering;
- Aggressive, result driven and a good team player
- Minimum 3 years hand-on experience in Logistics areas
- Mandarin Speaking is an advantage

6. SECRETARY

Responsibilities

- To produce a variety of correspondence, reports, translation and slide presentations.
- To organize and maintain files of departmental correspondence, records, etc., and follow up on pending matters
- To schedule appointment and coordinate arrangements for meetings.
- To prepare regular reports, gathering and summarizing data, information updates, departmental monthly expenditure forecast and processing of expenses claims.
- To perform visa application and traveling documentations including all preparation of relevant documents to support visa application.
- Maintenance of departmental office equipments icluding fax machine, computers, and printer.
- Maintenance of departmental office supply including stationary and name cards.

Requirements

- Minimum 2 years' relevant experience as a departmental secretary
- Possess PSC or Diploma in Secretarial studies. Exposure in Finance related knowledge would an added advantage.
- Good English communication and writing skills with proficiency in Mandarin
- Pleasant personality with excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- High degree of energy, flexibility and urgency
- Strong sense of confidentiality and business ethics
- Strong planning, follow-up and organizational skills
- Able to work well in a fast-paced changing environment
- Mandarin Speaking is an advantage

7. ACCOUNTS ASSISTANT:

Requirement:

- at least 1 years related working experiences
- LCC intermediate or higher level is preferred
- Good Command of PC knowledge (e.g. Excel, Word, Power Point & Chinese Word- Processing)
- Knowledge of Local Tax is an advantage
- Meticulous and perform job with accuracy
- Proficiency in English
- Mandarin Speaking is an advantage

Job responsibilities:

- Deal with daily bank issues
- Checking expense claim form and transfer to finance department in Malaysia
- Explain finance policy and procedure to staffs and handle from staffs
- Solve settlement problems with vendors or overseas offices

8. Subcontract Manager

Responsibilities:

- Responsible for qualifying, evaluating, promoting and management of the subcontractors, in the Telecom Turnkey project, based on the service procurement strategy.
- Hunting for the resource of subcontractors, making cost analysis and risk management, in the phase of project bidding.
- Organizing implementation and management of Procurement of Works. Choosing the right subcontractors or suppliers. Contract negotiation and management. Making purchase orders per the contract and doing the follow-ups such as the payment to the subcontractors.
- Gathering the relevant information in the subcontracting industry, which provides the ground for making service procurement strategy and cost analysis.

Requirements:

- Fluent English in both writing and speaking. Mandarin Chinese fluency is preferred.
- Bachelor's degree or above in Telecommunication or relevant majors.
- 2+ years experience in the field of Procurement of Works or Telecom Turnkey (EPC-FIDIC) project. Familiar with outsourcing products in Telecommunication project solutions, like towers & shelter, OSP or ELP, civil works, is preferred.
- A good team player with excellent communication skills.
- Good computer skills at MS Office, such as WORD, EXCEL, Powerpoint.
- Candidates should be below 40 years old

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- Good experience on ETL - Informatica, Cognos, Ascential (Anyone or a combination of these tools)
- Good experience on Reporting tools - Business Objects, Oracle Discoverer, Oracle Express (Anyone or a combination of these tools) • Database (RDBMS) - Strong in Oracle 9i or above on Unix platform. Experience in PL/SQL and PRO*C essential.

Experience Range
- Developers : 2+ years of experience (all on Oracle 9i or above on Unix platform preferable to have data warehouse experience / exposure) • Team lead / Architects : 5+ years of total software development experience with at least 3 years of Data warehouse & Oracle experience on skills mentioned above • Project leads/Projects Managers on the above skills are also required • All persons should have Banking (retail banking or Investments or credit cards) domain expertise

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- *With a degree in Business Administration, Marketing or a related course*
- *With at least two years experience in corporate account management*
- *Adept at generating sales proposals with good presentation and demonstration skills*
- *Proficient in oral and written communications*
- *With good interpersonal and organizational skills*

ACCOUNT MANAGER, Maintenance Services Sales
Profile:
- *Male or female, between 23 to 30 years of age*
- *Graduate of a four-year tertiary education course, preferably Marketing*
- *Adept at generating sales proposals with good presentation skills*
- *Proficient in oral and written communications*
- *With good interpersonal and organizational skills*

JUNIOR COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
Profile:
- *Male, between 21 to 25 years of age*
- *Graduate of at least a two-year computer technology course*
- *With good interpersonal and organizational skills*

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
Profile:
- *Female, between 21 to 25 years of age*
- *With a degree in Accountancy*
- *With good interpersonal and organizational skills*

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- Personable and assertive
- Good moral character, high integrity and honest

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- Proficient in verbal and written English communication.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, a team player and can work well with minor supervision.
- At least 3 years experience in the retail industry

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Tel. Nos: 851-8313 / 852-5714

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Account Executive

- Female
- 22 to 24 years old
- Single
- Preferably a graduate of a 4-year business course
- Proficient in written and oral communications
- Preferably at least 1 year of experience in sales or marketing
- Goal-oriented, confident and has a passion and joy of service
- Willingness to work overtime and during weekends if necessary

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- College Graduate
- Must have good communication skills and pleasing personality
- At least 2-5 years experience in managing reputable food chain/restaurant.

RESTAURANT STAFF
Qualifications:
- Male or Female, 18-24 years old
- At least 2nd year College
- Must have good communication skills and pleasing personality

Requirements:
Updated resume with recent photo: Diploma/Transcript of Records; Birth Certificate; Employment Certificate.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR RESUME TO:
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- Fair and slim w/ pleasing personality

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- Female College Grad w/ experience as Encoder
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- 2 years experience in handling corporate accounts
- Must possess good negotiation skills
- Willing to work extended hours
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Male or female; 21 years above; College graduate; Computer literate; Proficient in both written and oral communications

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LGF. SM City North EDSA Tel No 927-4150

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corner Garnet Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. 631-33-11 to 13

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Minimum Qualifications:
- Good Written & Oral Communication Skills
- Highly organized; with Good Administrative Skills
- Must be Computer literate–Excel, Word & Power Point
- Male/Female; 24-35 years old; at least 3 years experience

Qualified candidates may send their comprehensive resumé to:

FFE International INc.,
Unit E, Sime Darby Building
Ayala Avenue corner Malugay Street
Makati City (beside Wine Depot)

or email at: ffe intl@pacific.net.ph

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Site Support Supervisor
Company Nurse

JOBFAIRS:

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Mon to Fri (9am-3pm) March 7 - 11
22/F Wynsum Corporate Plaza,
Emerald Ave, Ortigas Center, Pasig City

BAGUIO:
Mon to Fri (9am-5pm) March 7 - 11
Baguio Economic Zone, Loakan Rd.,
Baguio City

Bring your resumé w/ 2x2 picture, SSS & TIN nos.

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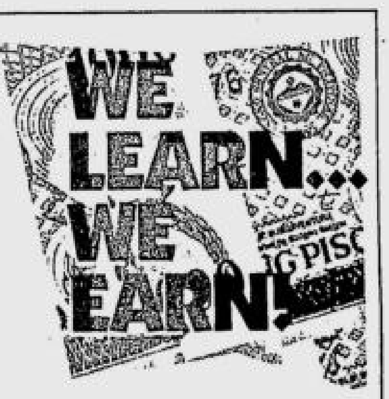

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Ten strategies for success abroad

By Kate Berardo

ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

WORKING across cultures requires a diverse skill set and a different approach from business in general. When bridging cultures both similar and foreign to your own, certain strategies are crucial to international business success. Here are 10 strategies for interacting with people from different cultures.

1. **Learn about the business beforehand.** This general business strategy becomes increasingly important when dealing with businesses across cultures. Get on their web site, check out their promotional material. Get a feel for the atmosphere, attitude and angle that the business has. Many cultural factors are passed down from the societal level to businesses. However, each organization will have its own culture, personality, and way of doing things.

2. **Observe.** Because your mind is processing a lot of information in new environments, your observation skills when working across cultures may be flooded or unfocused. Keep your observation skills engaged and alert to elements that will help you do business. Notice how people act, dress and treat each other. Especially if you come from a culture that emphasizes verbal communication, make a point of looking for messages that are conveyed without being said. Being able to read a situation will greatly improve your ability to have a successful meeting.

3. **Ask questions.** Many people don't want to reveal how little they know about other cultures, so they don't ask questions. Ultimately, they limit their ability to work in other cultures. Questions show you are interested in your colleague's culture. This interest and consideration helps build your relationship, which is especially important if your culture has a reputation for trying to culturally dominate others (e.g. the US). Demonstrate that you are working to create synergy between your cultures with questions. In doing so, you create room for the mistakes you make; people are more willing to look past cultural blunders if they know you are trying to learn about the culture you are working with.

4. **Stay aware of yourself.** Some people feel like they have somewhat of an out-of-body experience when in cross-cultural situations because they are focused on everything new outside of themselves. There can be so much going on around you that you forget to focus on yourself as well. Take advantage of down time (and make time for it) so you can get in touch with your body and feelings. What's your gut feeling? Where is it coming from? This process can help you feel more grounded and secure in your experience abroad.

5. **Allow for more time.** Working across cultures takes more time. Communication may be slowed and logistics may be different. You may be working with a culture with a different concept of time altogether. Expect most things to take longer than they would when dealing with a business from your same culture or country. Also give yourself more time to process all the information before making decisions.

6. **Look for individual differences.** Overviews of cultures are meant to be guidelines only. Individuals may have values and behaviors that vary greatly from those of their native culture. Many people make the mistake of trying to fit people they are working with into cultural molds, when they don't fit. People's values and behaviors are influenced in part by their culture, but also by their background, experiences and personality. Be careful not to attribute too much of what you observe to a cultural difference.

7. **Find the humor.** Humor heals and helps you through difficult situations. Travel can be stressful, as can new environments and change in general. This stress can limit both your flexibility and your ability to handle cross-cultural situations. Combat stress with humor. Be able to step away (at least mentally) from situations and find the humor in them.

8. **Learn to tolerate uncertainty.** This is an essential skill, and one that can be extremely difficult for people from some cultures where directness and exactness are valued (e.g. Germany, the US). There will be a great deal of unknowns when doing business across cultures. Definitive, concrete answers may not always be given, especially if you are working with a culture with a high tolerance for uncertainty. Focus on what you can determine and try to let go of minor details that are unclear. (Similarly, if you come from a culture that doesn't place a high value on exactness and are working with someone from a culture that does, try to provide clarification and details when possible.)

9. **Go early.** If your meeting is face-to-face and you'll be traveling abroad, go a few days before your scheduled meeting. Give yourself time to adjust; you will have to deal with physical adjustments (jet lag, different foods) as well as a number of cultural adjustments as well. These changes can be overwhelming and should be spread out to make them manageable. Give yourself time to adjust physically and then your mind will be better able to make cultural adjustments that are essential to success.

10. **Build your intercultural skills.** When working with people from different cultures, you need a solid understanding of the norms of that culture. You also need communication skills and business strategies that can be applied across cultures. The items listed above reflect some of the necessary skills for intercultural work in general. However, individuals need to further their intercultural competence based on their own situations and needs.

To determine what skills you need to develop, reflect on past intercultural experiences (for people with limited experience abroad, think of experiences working and interacting with people and groups different from you). When do you become uncomfortable, rigid or shut down? What mistakes have you made in the past? Commit yourself to continually developing the skills that will help you in similar situations in the future.

View your experiences with different cultures as a trajectory, rather than a string of individual experiences. Link the different experiences you have and you can link the personal development and learning that comes with them.

(Kate Berardo is a Northwester-educated intercultural specialist who helps people from different cultures, backgrounds and schools of thought understand each other and work effectively together. She is the founder of culturosity.com, *the web portal that helps people build intercultural awareness in daily life. This article is reprinted with permission from* culturosity. com.)

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HR practitioner helps her people shine

HR Focus

By Candy G. Villanueva
Contributor

HOW does one who has a knack for numbers end up embracing a job that helps people shine? The equation for the answer is simple. For Lulu Carrasco, it was a combination of encouragement, challenge and curiosity that brought her to her position of great responsibility. From numbers to human behavior, Carrasco is now the vice president for human resources of GlaxoSmithKline Philippines, Inc.(GSK).

As vice president for HR, Carrasco is responsible for the total development of GSK's people. She makes sure the employees develop both in competence and character by creating a corporate culture conducive for growth. GSK is one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical companies that boasts of a combination of skills and resources that provides a platform for delivering strong growth in today's rapidly changing health care environment. GSK is more popularly known for consumer health care names like Lactacyd, Aquafresh and Sensodyne.

This pharmaceutical company is also known for prescription drugs like antibiotics, antidepressants and dermatological products among others. But aside from prescription medication and consumer health care, GSK is also committed to community service through affordable medicine programs, health care access, antituberculosis campaigns and antilymphatic filariasis campaigns. As VP for human resources, Carrasco shares GSK's noble mission to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. Carrasco starts the fulfillment of her mission from within the walls of GSK.

Total development

Carrasco is focused on employee development. This great task starts with recruiting the best people for the position and employing the best use of talents. It also means "maximizing their (employees') full potentials, ensuring the company's business continuity through a robust pool of talents for succession and rearing organizational capabilities to adapt to changing business models."

"In all these, I partner with line managers so our employees succeed in delivering the business results with integrity, and self-actualize in the process," shares Carrasco. In line with her objectives as an HR professional, Carrasco conceptualized and engineered a program of GSK towards an interdependent culture. The program encourages internal security and camaraderie while being competitive in the market place. As a result, GSK hopes that employees sustain resilience amidst tremendous organizational changes.

Carrasco was also instrumental in transforming GSK's organization towards an empowering leadership style. The transition resulted to the faster development of senior management. "It supported a strong entrepreneurial direction making GSK achieve consistently high market share in prescription medicines and fast growth among market leaders. The succession system is alive and has robust pipeline of key talents. High employee morale and approval of GSK leadership team shown in periodic organizational climate surveys, whether internal or external."

Numbers to human behavior

Carrasco claims her strength lies on strategic HR thinking, vision and experience in designing the organizational architecture and in handling HR concerns in broad and complex businesses. Her key achievements for GSK are testaments to that.

But how did a Mathematics degree holder become an HR professional? "I used to play teacher roles in childhood. In college, my math professor encouraged me to teach math after graduation. I did briefly, at the same time, take up graduate studies in Psychology. That introduced me to the world of Industrial Psychology, " she replies.

A Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics degree holder, Carrasco graduated cum laude at St. Paul College of Manila. Only her thesis stands between her and her Master of Arts in Psychology from the Ateneo de Manila University. While in graduate school, Carrasco's professor persuaded her to do a thesis, which was presented during the annual convention of an association of psychologists. "I was amazed with the deeper study of human behavior in organizations. Naturally, my next curiosity was to explore the corporate world," she recalls. "My first bosses were challenging, not with kid gloves; they were encouraging, not with high praises, but with support and unspoken belief in my abilities. And I was hooked forever to HR work. Some of my former CEOs and colleagues still consult me on HR matters. I am grateful for such people."

Egoless role

"She can be tough, she can be soft. She can be demanding, she can be lenient. She can be funny too, with a contagious laughter. Depending on the situation, she adjusts herself and you can be sure her mode will be apt for the occasion," attests one of Carrasco's people. Carrasco's supporting role to front liners demands her to be tough but soft. She explains that her job requires her to be "one who has a wholesome confidence and courage and humility as strength under control will have the fortitude against setbacks or hazards of the job. HR heads can be misunderstood or be objects of displaced hostility since they handle people issues."

Humility indeed plays a great role as VP for HR. For her, it is more effective to implement HR programs when line managers take center stage. According to her, as the HR head, she must assume the "egoless role." "The HR practitioner need not always agree and aspire for popularity. Be willing to take risks and suffer personally, though temporarily. In the long run, if one's judgment pattern is good, he will gain others' respect."

CARRASCO .JOSEPH AGCAOILI

Mission and values

A veteran on the science of human behavior, Carrasco advices those who would like to follow her path to perform without fixating on the scoreboard. "Showcase best practice or own success stories to share, not to impress. Ask to gain insights, not to test other people's abilities." She also reminds hopefuls to derive internal security, not from possessions or positions, but from mission and values in life. According to her it's EQ that counts, not IQ.

Continuous learning and development are also vital to her. She reads and researches before she writes her own presentations. "This is my most effective learning style. I attend international HR fora as well for the latest update, whether within GSK or across industries."

Quiet times are also spent to observe, reflect or study. Carrasco considers David Ulrich enlightenment for HR practitioners. She claims Ulrich, a renowned executive educator and human resources expert, takes the challenging stance. Carrasco emulates the professor's challenging stance in meeting her goals. At a glance, Carrasco's mission and values are aligned with helping raise people concerns in business plans. But ultimately, it's all about helping "people shine, be self aware of their strengths and surface blind spots, work around their limitations, write their troubles in the sand, and move on."

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SUNDAY, MARCH 6, 2005

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

'My boss grabs all the credit!'

By Josie O. Santamaria

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

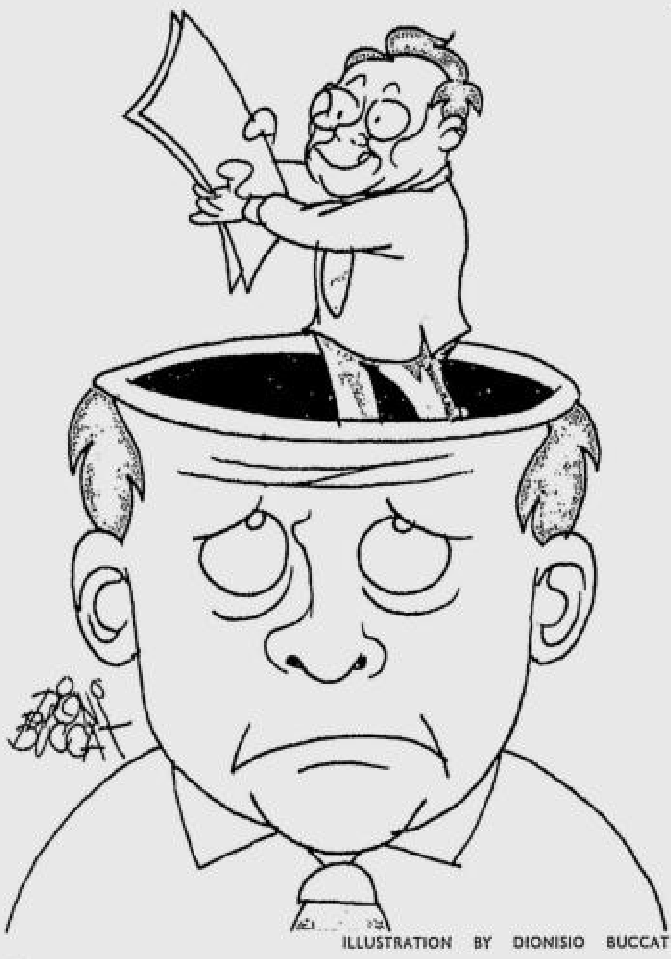


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

YOU'VE been writing advice on bosses and subordinates and how they can have positive relationships. I get the impression that the person with the problem seeking your advice should be the one changing his attitudes and behaviors rather than the person they are complaining about.

I'm both a boss and a subordinate. I'm head of a department reporting directly to a member of the Mancom. My problem with him is that he grabs credit for the excellent work I do. I'm a perfectionist and I can confidently say that every output I make is done excellently. In the previous two companies I had worked with, I was always the one to give presentations to the Mancom. But my current boss does not allow me to do so.

Instead, he makes me do the presentation for him. He finds fault with my materials, thereby communicating the impression that they are not good enough for him. Yet, he uses most, if not all, of them. He himself does the presentation to Mancom without giving any recognition to my work. He gives Mancom the impression that he was the one who prepared and made the presentation. My peers and subordinates know that I'm the "brains" behind the presentation but he gets all the credit from his boss and from Mancom. I get neither private nor public recognition.

I'm very disillusioned with him and unhappy about what he is doing. I want to resign but I like the company and my job but my problem is my boss. Please advise me.

Ms Disillusioned

Yes, I usually advise the person with the problem to do a self-confrontation, examine his paradigms, reflect on his behaviors and identify the ways by which he might have caused the other person to behave in a negative manner. He has no control over the other person (whether boss or subordinate), his thoughts, feelings and behaviors. The only one he has control of is himself. This is why I advise the person with the problem to change. Perhaps if he changes, the other person will change too.

You write that your boss does not give you recognition. Perhaps he does, but you are not aware of it. Is your performance appraisal satisfactory or even very satisfactory? Are you given merit increases or bonuses? These are forms of recognition.

However, I realize that monetary incentives are not enough. Every human being needs recognition or stroking, verbal and non-verbal. The verbal stroking is what we call affirmation such as words of praise, compliments, applause, etc.

"Stroke quota"

Well-known American psychologist and therapist, Dr. Virginia Satyr, had written in one of her books that every human being has a daily "stroke quota" which refers to the minimum number of strokes needed for psychological growth. Every person need 10 to 15 a day, in the form of affirmation or non-verbal signs such as an okay or victory sign, nods of approval, smiles, winking, pat on the back and others. All of these serve as the psychological oxygen that makes a human being grow and glow.

If a person does not get her daily stroke quota over a period of time, her personality changes as her self-esteem is eroded. She may exhibit either withdrawal or aggressive behaviors.

Driving force

Your need for recognition is normal. This need is one of your driving forces to excellence. While you complain about your boss' inability to give you credit and to affirm you, in private and in public, I hope that you, being a boss too, are also not remiss in giving affirmation to your subordinates who assist you in doing your excellent work.

In order not to be unhappy and demoralized, which may cause you to resign from a good job with a good company, I suggest you make a paradigm shift, i.e., you change your mindsets, perceptions and beliefs. Instead of seeing the glass as half-empty, see it as half full.

Number one customer

In the career advice I gave which was published last Feb. 6 in the Sunday Inquirer, I wrote that a person with a boss must view his boss as his number one customer. Thus, the person must satisfy and delight his boss most especially since he owes his job to his boss. If the boss doesn't need anything from him or if he doesn't meet the standards of the boss and exceeds his requirements, he won't have a job and a career in the organization.

As his subordinate, it's your job to do excellent work that pleases your boss and which makes him look great to his own boss. The fact that he uses your presentation and the materials you prepared shows that he is pleased with them. Your boss is not used to giving affirmation, perhaps because he does not receive them either. One cannot give what he doesn't have. He is not getting his daily stroke quota. If you look at him from this perspective, then you will perceive him differently.

To get a stroke, do excellent work. Then ask, not wait, for it. Say something to him like: "Sir, what do you think of the report on XYZ I submitted to you?" If he says, "OK," you can probe further by asking, "What is OK about it?" "What is it that you like so that I will do it again next time?"

I-message

If he still withholds positive feedback, then give him an I-message like this one: "Sir, I have always done excellent work. The proof of excellence is that you present it to Mancom together with all materials I have prepared. I feel hurt that I don't get any pat on the back from you to communicate your approval of what I've done." Then leave it at that.

If he now gives you a pat on the back, well and good. You got what you wanted. You can also compliment him back by saying. "Thank you, Sir, I feel great with your compliment." Look for opportunities to give him sincere positive feedback using his own positive behaviors that you observe him do. Examples of positive I-messages you can give to him: "I'm happy to get your written feedback on my report," "I appreciate your time in listening to my explanation." When you make these statements, look at him directly, with a smile on your lips. What I mean by this is that you role model to him the behaviors you want him to do.

Psychic rewards

If he continues to get credit for the work you do and is still very stingy with words of affirmation, then I suggest you focus your attention on the psychic rewards you get from doing excellent work. These positive intrinsic rewards are the following:

- Being proud of yourself for doing excellent work; giving yourself a pat on the back.
- Feeling good that you have helped your boss feel great for his excellent presentation.
- Feeling grateful that you are using your knowledge, skills and talents, which God has given you and wants you to use for the good of others.

With this frame of mind, if your boss does compliment you, consider it a bonus. God bless you.

(Ms Santamaria is the president of Career Systems, Inc. a leading provider of a wide array of career development training programs and consulting services in the Philippines. Send feedback to carsys@qinet.net.*)*

Japan may relax immigration policy to cope with labor shortage

TOKYO—Japan is considering a broad revision of its immigration policy that might make it easier for unskilled foreign workers to enter the country, a way of coping with a looming labor shortage as its population ages.

With estimates that one in four Japanese will be over 65 by 2020, experts say Japan will need a large number of immigrants to maintain productivity, but authorities have been wary because they believe foreigners may bring in crime and terrorism.

A Justice Ministry official said on Friday, however, that Japan would consider letting more unskilled foreign workers into the country as part of an immigration reform proposal to be drawn up by the end of this month or early April.

"There's a definite need for dealing with the labor shortage that could develop as a result of low birthrates and an ageing society," he added. "Changing policy would also help tackle the problem of illegal immigrants." Japanese immigration policy has long been tough on foreign workers. However, steps have recently been taken to ease this, such as increasing the number of areas in which non-Japanese can enter the country for training.

Current immigration policy favors foreigners with expertise in specialized fields including some high-tech sectors, academia and journalism.

But immigrants, both legal and illegal, have for some years performed the manual labor shunned by many Japanese, working in jobs considered dangerous or dirty, such as construction.

"Given the falling population, policies in various areas are needed," the ministry said in a policy outline on its homepage. "We need to consider accepting workers in fields other than those we have rated as skilled while taking into account the need to maintain our nation's economic activity and standard of living," it added.

In a sign of potential difficulties, however, it noted that this would have to be done while taking into account "the feelings of citizens and our economic society" and invited ordinary Japanese to give their opinions on the possible changes.

The outline also said the ministry would consider extending the duration of visas issued for skilled workers and making it easier to obtain permanent resident status.

Foreigners living legally in Japan totalled 1.85 million in 2003, or about 2 percent of the population.

The government has estimated that there are more than 200,000 illegal immigrants in Japan and conservative politicians often blame them for the country's rising crime rate, although statistics do not bear this out. *Reuters*

Work a miracle

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

AS I PICTURE in my mind the Gospel of today, I imagine the apostles or even the people around the "man blind from birth" pleading with Jesus "Work a miracle, please!" And Jesus did work a miracle by performing some simple acts and telling the blind man to do an ordinary thing—"go wash in the Pool of Siloam"—then the blind man could now see. I am so amazed of the fact that simple, ordinary acts done by Jesus and by the blind man in obedience to Jesus produced something extraordinary that the first three words of the plea "work a miracle" caught my attention and raised these questions, "Can a simple work become a miracle itself?" and "How?"

Most people have to work in order to live. Even if some would look at work as a burden, as an inevitable load to carry, it is still a necessary condition in order to live. Whether he likes it or not, man has to work in order to provide himself and his family the basic necessities of life. He has to work harder if he wants a bit more than what is necessary to live. Work, therefore, sustains life, and working earnestly to sustain life is a great event, which I think, can be considered as close to being a "miracle" in itself, since man is naturally inclined to take life easy and without toil. The greater miracle, however, happens when the worker believes in Jesus and feels the presence of Jesus in his mind and heart, and he does his work in obedience to the words of Jesus, and "sees" Jesus in his colleagues in the workplace. Work no longer becomes a heavy burden to carry grudgingly but something to embrace with love and gratefulness in one's heart. . (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

Go wash your . . .

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

OF ALL the workers in the world, mothers bear the closest resemblance to Jesus in the sense that work never stops for them, they're not paid for it, and they're believed to be doing it for love. Even Jesus' instruction to the man born blind (in today's Gospel) sounds a wee bit maternal, don't you think? Don't you remember your mother telling you and your siblings when you were little: Go wash your hands (before eating). Go wash your feet (before entering the house after playing barefoot outside). Go wash your mouth (when you've said something naughty or nasty). Go wash behind your ears (when your bath is incomplete).

Because the work of mothers have a lot to do with cleaning, it is endless. Children dirty themselves ceaselessly, thus, mothers need to repeat their "Go wash..." just as often, at times at the risk of sounding ridiculous. Even when as adults their children need or want no more "Go wash..." reminders, mothers remain in this business of "washing"—though their work of cleaning comes closer now to Jesus' work of cleansing. As their once docile offspring become stubborn with age and experience to the point of blindness to the things that really matter, it is mothers who wash their children's souls clean with their tears, often shed in the secret world of prayer.

If you've even been this blind and have felt the cleansing power of your mother's tears, you need not be told what miracles are. But if not, we hope that in your freedom you would not be so blind as to be told by Jesus, "Go wash your eyes in the pool of your mother's tears!" (This is our simple tribute to mothers and mothers-to-be on the occasion of International Day of Women on March 8.) (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

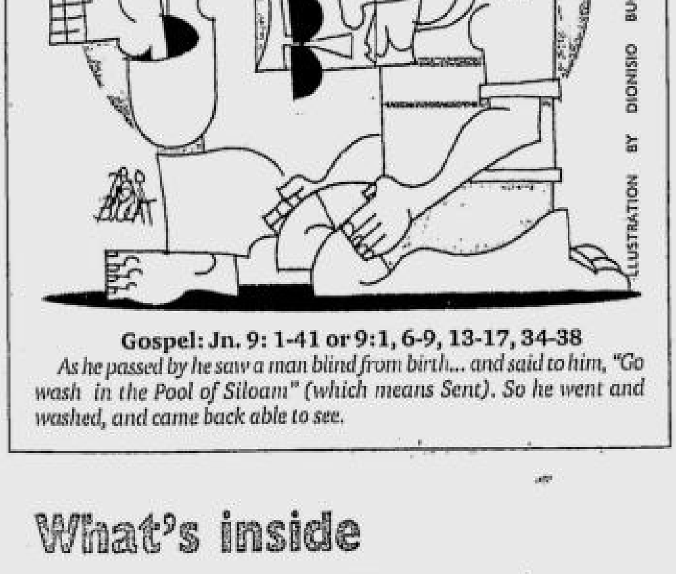


ILLUSTRATION BY DIONISIO BUCCAT

Gospel: Jn. 9: 1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

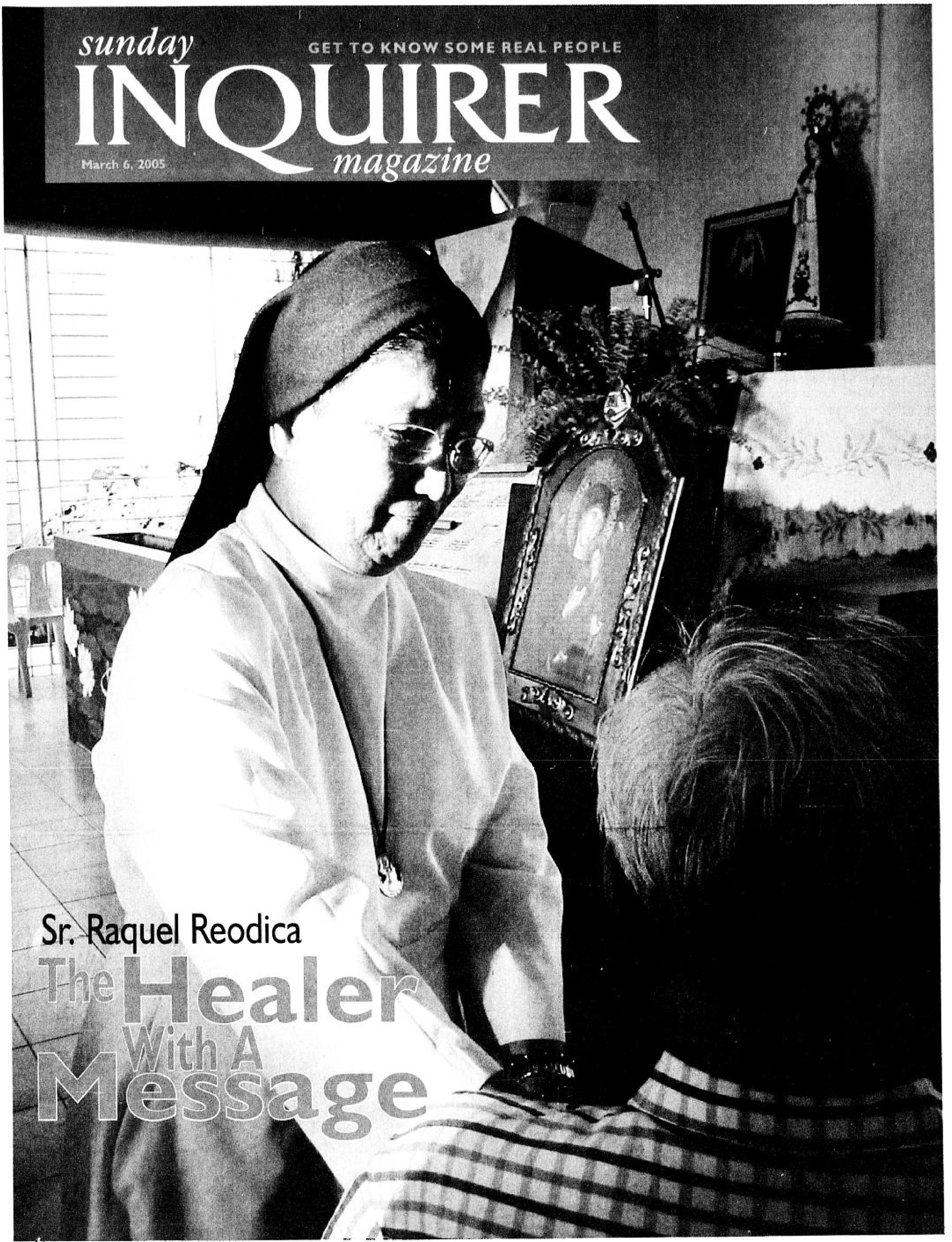
As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth... and said to him, "Go wash in the Pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed, and came back able to see.

What's inside

HR Focus: *Lulu Carrasco of GlaxoSmithKline* *p. 7★★*

Ten strategies for success abroad *p. 6★★*

sunday
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
INQUIRER
March 6, 2005
magazine



Sr. Raquel Reodica

The Healer With A Message

Text and photographs
by Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

"WHY me?" asked Sr. Raquel Reodica, a former activist nun whose past included joining protest rallies, plotting anti-establishment moves and being clamped in the military stockade, veil and all, during the martial law years.

Healing people of their ills was the last thing on her mind. And predicting the future—what did this have to do with her? Sister Raquel, by her own reckoning, did not fit the mold of chosen visionaries. There is nothing otherworldly about her, no ascetic air at all. A fun-loving nun, she is the first to laugh at her own jokes. In fact, she can pass for a high school principal minus the stern mien.

So why her? Well, why not?

While healing was not part of the work she had pledged herself to do, she followed when she was led. She realized that she was singled out, pulled into strange, unfamiliar ground to discover that healing was God's work and that she was only an instrument.

But the more daunting task was becoming the instrument as well of others gifted with visions of the future and bearing both good news and bad for the country. That, she has yet to come to terms with.

To page 2

> ***People come to this RVM nun for what may be considered medical miracles. But Sister Raquel Reodica would like to make known something just as mysterious—and frightening. Will people believe her this time?***

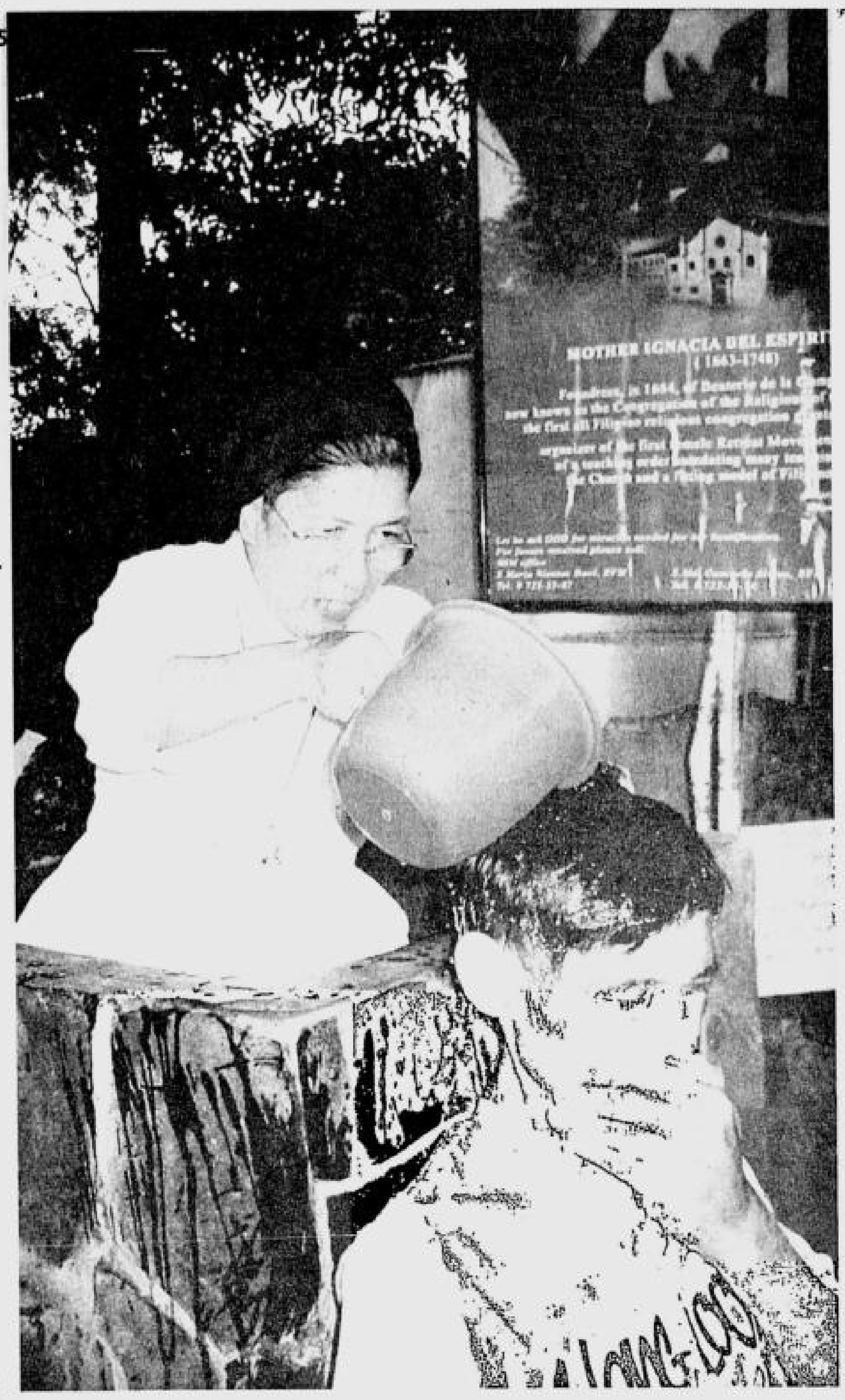
A Passion for Safety and Survival
by Leti Boniol, *p.4*

Fit Body, Focused Mind
by Gina Abuyuan-Llanes, *p.5*

His Best Foot Forward
by Ruel S. De Vera, *p.6*

Sr. Raquel

...from page 1



Tabo **therapy: Sister Raquel gives a healing bath to a supplicant**

No longer the reluctant healer, Sister Raquel has, for many years now, been performing medical miracles, as she rids body and soul of the ills that plague them. Dramatic reversals of terminal cases and the treatment of painful and chronic ailments are not uncommon, as the blessed ones are the first to vouch for. For this former activist nun, it's been a long way from fist-shaking in the streets to the laying of hands warmed by "God's electricity."

Facing the Philippine flag, Sister Raquel shouts, "*Espiritu ng sagabal sa kasaganahan sa Pilipinas, lumayas ka!* Out! *Ihampas, itapon sa sahig, tapakan, tadyakan!*" (Spirit blocking Philippine progress, leave! Out! Hurl it, throw it on the floor, step on it, kick it!)

With the word "Out!" Sister Raquel grabs at something in the air and stomps on it. "Umm, out, out, out!" Stomp, kick, stomp. The crowd follows with the same verve. The exorcism choreography is repeated several times where applicable. It goes for *espiritu ng* cancer, *espiritu ng* diabetes and the variety of ailments countless people bring to the Mother Ignacia Healing Center in Bagumbong, in that far, bucolic end of Caloocan City.

The center is run by the Religious of the Virgin Mary (RVM), a Catholic congregation to which Sister Raquel belongs. (The RVM was founded in the Philippines in the 17th century by Mother Ignacia del Espiritu, whose cause for beatification is being heard.) Across the three-hectare complex are smaller centers where two other RVM nuns practice their own healing methods.

Sister Raquel says leaving the religious life never crossed her mind, not even during the post-Vatican II exodus of the 1970s. She joined the RVM when she was in second year college and later finished an education degree, major in English. She describes herself as a voracious reader.

"I do divine healing," Sister Raquel explains, "employing divine radiation therapy. I use the heat in my hands." She asks those wishing to be healed to employ the same technique on themselves.

Miraculous

Healing is held in the bright and airy chapel that is mute witness to many an "instant miraculous healing." Sister Raquel also gives healing baths, using a dipper. Before the healing sessions, she speaks to the crowd about God, forgiving others and oneself, and changing one's ways. Anger is a poison, she reminds. She is a good storyteller in both Pilipino and English but she uses mainly colloquial Pilipino with an accent that betrays her Laguna roots. "*Aba e, akala ko dedbol na* (I thought he was dead)," she says, referring to Warren Paradero, 60, who had Stage 4 cancer. His recovery stunned doctors.

Sister Raquel also speaks about divine manifestations in the days to come which, she feels, have not gotten the attention they deserve. "The RVM's healing ministry is a way of spreading the gospel of salvation of Jesus Christ," the nun says. "Jesus wants to give total healing of body and soul. He must enter into our entire being."

Scores have been healed since Sister Raquel started her apostolate in July 1991 under cataclysmic circumstances. That was shortly after Mount Pinatubo in Zambales erupted for the first time in 600 years, darkening parts of the planet and burying under volcanic ash vast portions of Central Luzon.

How did it all start?

A woman claiming to be a visionary was seeking someone to whom she must deliver a divine message, but whose name or face she didn't know. Only when she met her would she know. The woman only had an address—214 N. Domingo in Quezon City, which happened to be the RVM motherhouse. It is a long story, this search, and it ended at the 11th hour at the dictated address when an unknowing Sister Raquel walked past the woman, who had refused to leave the RVM compound until she found the one she was looking for.

Sister Raquel, the visionary pleaded, must go to Botolan, Zambales, where the huge Ina Poonbato (the Blessed Mother of Poonbato) statue was half-buried in volcanic ash, there to pray for the volcano to hold back its wrath. The landscape was in ruins, and there was no appeasing the volcano at that time. A series of baffling events after Sister Raquel did as she was asked convinced her and the other nuns that the visionary's importuning was not a bluff.

Mystery

While people have come for the healing, there is another mystery that Sister Raquel is anxious to make known. And it is a frightening scenario revealed to seven "visionaries" who are in touch with her, she says. One of them, a French woman, has joined a lay monastic community, the nun adds.

What makes the vision particularly scary is that it isn't the first that the visionary has revealed. Three months before the deadly tsunami struck and killed 280,000 people across Asia and parts of Africa on December 26 last year, Sister Raquel was approached by a visionary who said, "I see ocean waters rising, rising, rising. Around 2004 to 2005, it will hit many countries and sow much destruction." The nun did not keep the prediction to herself, but the information failed to fly.

It was only after disaster struck that it was given some attention, says Bernardo Lopez, a freelance journalist who writes a column for a business paper. "It was too late," he rues. "It was hindsight, not foresight. And foresight is the essence of prophecies." Lopez is writing a book and doing video documentaries on Sister Raquel and her healing ministry.

In December 2004, just around the time the tsunami struck, someone came to tell Sister Raquel that "a series of massive earthquakes will hit Metro Manila in 2005." The nun's exact words: "This will originate in Quezon City and a portion of Manila will slide into Manila Bay." She also speaks of movements of the earth in the Pacific, Atlantic, China, the Indian Ocean.

Terrified? These need not happen, Sister Raquel says, if people change their ways and seek the way of God through prayer, repentance and good works. In other words, God can change His mind.

If the dire prediction does not come to pass, she could very well end up being ridiculed by the world. But that's fine with her, says Sister Raquel. She is ready to face humiliation and be called a charlatan, she says, citing the case of Jonah (the prophet who was swallowed by the whale and survived to tell the tale) in the Old Testament of the Bible. God held back his wrath on Nineveh when he saw the people repent. Jonah, who had warned the people, ended up looking like a fool.

Prediction

The prediction is not hers, the nun clarifies, but were simply relayed to her so she could broadcast them. And why this circuitous route? This is God's way, is all she could say. She takes these things with "positive indifference," she says, adding that she gave value to them only because in the past some had been fulfilled. By positive indifference, she means that although there is no certainty that the prediction would come true, one considers the message to be from God. Responding by turning away from evil ways could alter the dark scenario.

This precondition might give a picture of a punishing and petulant God, a God who needs to be placated and pleased. But Sister Raquel paints a portrait of a God who is loving and involved. She tells the crowd: "God came to earth (as Jesus) in order to be one of us. He is an adventurous God." She compares God to fire. "In this fire of God no disease will survive. God is supreme electricity. God wants to heal you. He says, '*gawin mo akong barkada*' (make me one of your buddies), seek the Kingdom, be a model of humility. God is like a circle, without beginning and end."

Sister Raquel makes the corresponding gestures and the crowd does the same. They make imaginary circles in the air, rub their hands and apply heat on their aches and hurts. After her talk, the nun does individual healing, praying over each supplicant and rubbing oil on their head, forehead and afflicted parts of the body.

The patients are from all walks of life. Even activists of different ideological leanings have also sought her out.

The very ill who request a healing bath are brought to the bathing area outside. Sister Raquel douses each one with a dipper of cold water. The patients then proceed to their respective corners and pour on themselves five dippers more of water (representing the five wounds of Jesus), while reading the prayers posted on trees and posts. They should not towel themselves dry.

Some scenes are indeed moving and inspire salutary thoughts on mortality and immortality, pure faith and humility. What is it that really matters, what is essential, what is not? What does it take to be truly happy?

Sister Raquel makes sure she is within the perimeters of the Church and the policies of her congregation. "I have a spiritual director. Our bishop, Antonio Obias, approves of our work. My congregation claims this work as ours." She does not receive payment, but donations for the upkeep of the place are not refused. Those who need to stay for days in the infirmary pay a small fee.

A visionary, Sister Raquel reveals, predicted that she will have "a third eye" or the ability to see into the future herself. This scares her a bit. She had also been told that she must go to a cave on Mount Banahaw in Laguna to retrieve a *tapayan* (jar) that contains healing oil which has been kept there for centuries. "Guarding it is a spiritual snake which I must confront," she says. "Imagine a snake!" she exclaims with a laugh. "I'm not ready for it. I will know when I am." Q

To inquire about the healing schedule and directions to Bagumbong, text JESUSHEALS to 2355 (for Globe); mytext(space)JESUSHEALS to 211. Or e-mail eastwind@edsamail.com.ph

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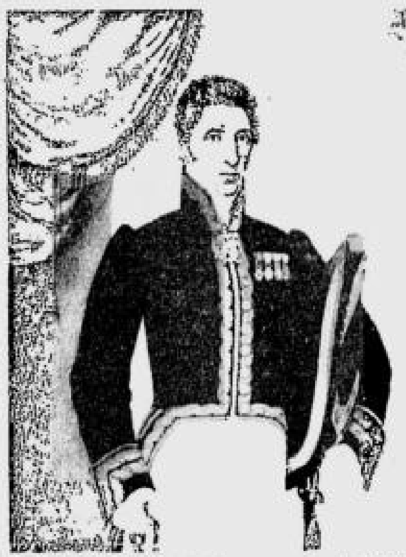


ART IN IVORY Ayala Museum presents the exhibit "Power + Faith + Image: Philippine Art in Ivory from the 16th to the 19th Century." It showcases a powerful assemblage of popular ecclesiastical images and secular objects made of ivory produced by Philippine carvers from the 16th to the 19th century. Exhibit runs until Sept. 24. In photo is "Portrait of Gov. Gen. Enrile" by Damian Domingo. *For more of This Week, see page 7*

Deserted House

Twilight brings black clouds over the sere field.
The wind destroys the blossoms, and puts frost
on the petals of the orchid. Mosquitoes
lay eggs in the heart of the bromeliad.

Dusk confuses his sense of time. When light
and shadow merge he's at a loss whether
he'd close or open the window, surprised
by the sharp scent of jasmine from the garden,
where a snake nests in the Indian tree.

The black dog is sleeping on the doorstep.
The white cat is waiting for the fishbones.
(He forgets their names.) When will she return?
he asks. No one knows. His mind is a spider
spinning cobwebs in the dark.

He catches a,
whiff of rotting leaves in the chill air. Evening
brings dead things and earliest memories,
This generation is passing. Prepare
because you are next.

Constantino Tejero

THE FLOWER SPECTACLE THAT IS PANAGBENGA

The people of Baguio were in full bloom

Fanning the flames in the summer capital

Baguio was awash once more in the yearly floral inundation that is Panagbenga, the beautiful floral fiesta that no other but the mountain province can celebrate so distinctly. SMART Buddy was there with lucky subscribers to join in the fun and colors of this memorable experience.

For who can forget experiencing Panagbenga? It is forever a warm memory that stays for a lifetime, reminding us of the magic of nature, the simple poignant beauty of the flowers that grow so abundant and radiant in Baguio. It also reminds us of the strong spirit of the people of Baguio who faced many challenges and doubts for this year's fiesta but in the end, prevailed.

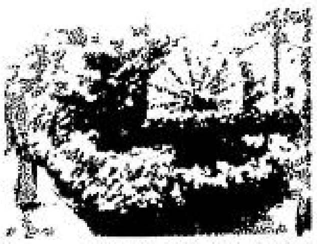
"Everybody hoped for the best for this year's Panagbenga," said Nicole, a yearly pilgrim to this explosion of natural color. And it seems the best hopes won the day and the days that followed with SMART Buddy lending crucial support for organizers. As part of SMART's tie-up with the Department of Tourism, the "Biyahe Na!" campaign made its way to the "Summer Capital of the Philippines." SMART now serves as the official wireless service provider of the Department of Tourism.

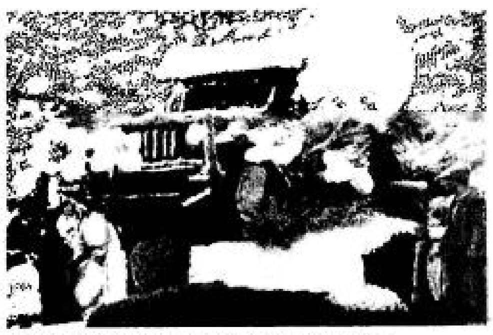
Aside from the annual flower festival, SMART brought rock favorites Bamboo to Baguio with the "SMART Love Party" last March 5. From street mural painting to food fests, Baguio's best and brightest welcomed tourists from around the world to their chilly city. The Flower Power Parade was a street-dancing competition that showcased Baguio's most innovative dancers. Of course, the highlight of the Panagbenga festivities was the Parade of Floats which were adorned with all sorts of colorful blooms. Nothing says Panagbenga quite like these.

With the SMART Buddy Fiestamazing campaign and their working hand in hand with the DOT, SMART hopes to encourage local tourism throughout our beautiful land. If Panagbenga 2005 is any indication, this party is sure to rock the entire archipelago.

Ms. Panagbenga waves to her audience

balik-bulaklak
Panagbenga 2005


A zoo was the inspiration for this float

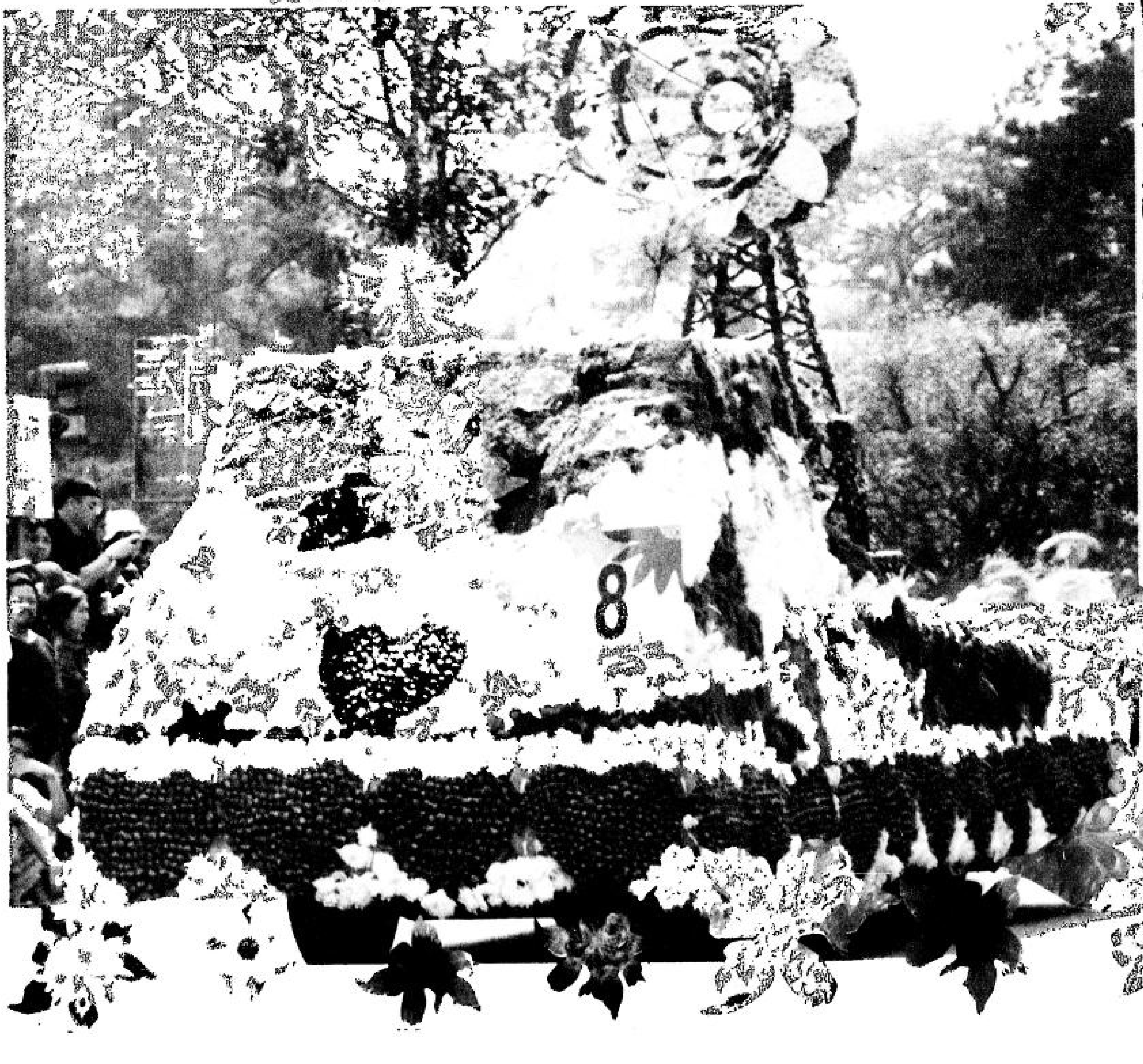

The DOT float encourages you to visit Baguio

"Bahay kubo, kahit munti..."

Showing off some [illegible]

Delicately balancing [illegible]

Partying deep into the Baguio night



SMART
Simply Amazing!

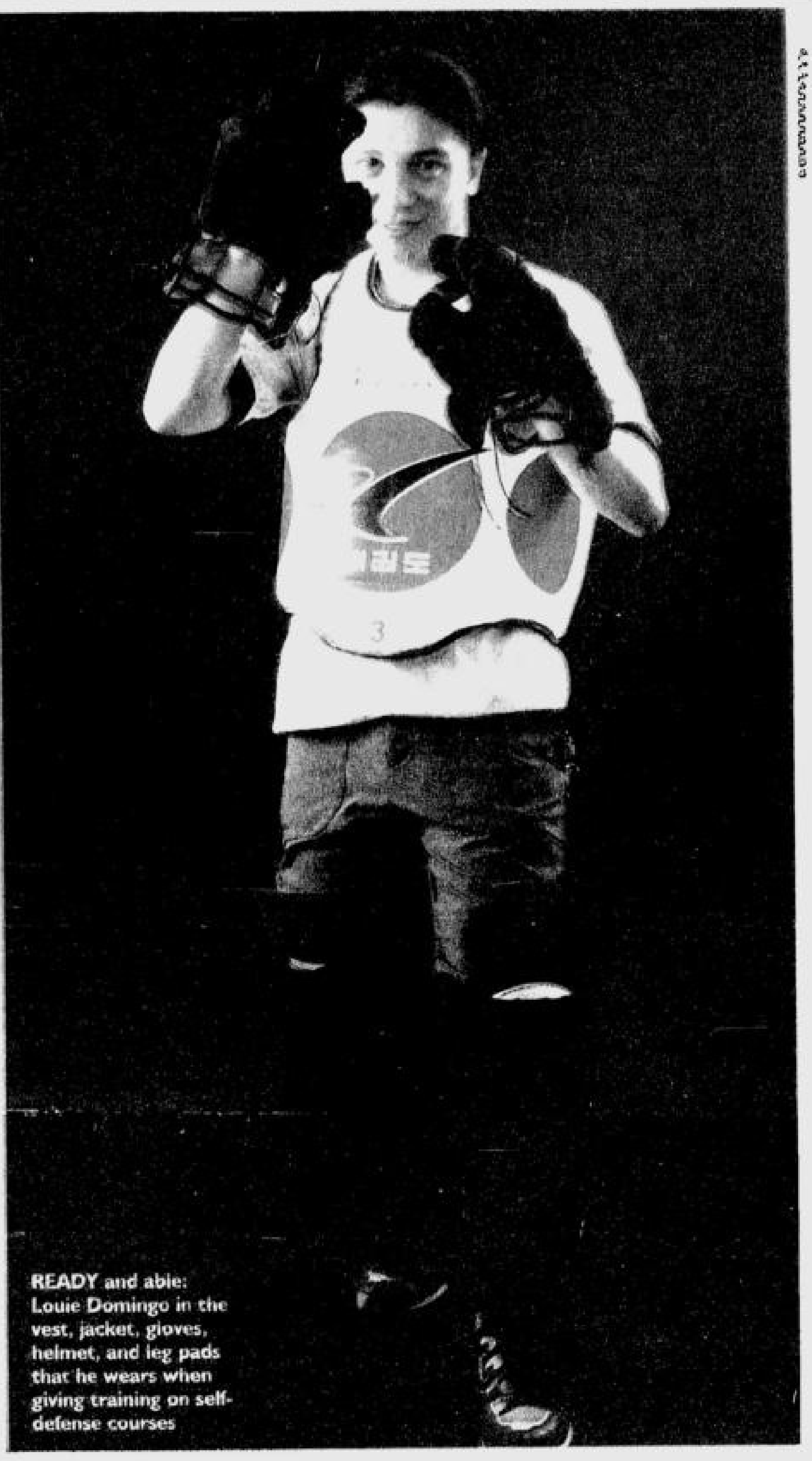
Adventurers

By Leti Boniol

Photographs by Rem Zamora

A Passion for Safety and Survival

One can never be too prepared for any emergency, says safety expert Louie Domingo, who has made it his life's mission to show others how to be ready



READY and able: Louie Domingo in the vest, jacket, gloves, helmet, and leg pads that he wears when giving training on self-defense courses

IF A FIRE breaks out in your house and smoke is suffocating you, how would you find your way out? Standing up or crawling?

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The long-haired computer science graduate does not look like he's been through rugged terrain and back-breaking adventures like rappelling, mountain climbing, horseback riding, dirt biking, or rafting. He looks more like a movie outfit's glamor boy who is into acting, which he lists as one of his many skills and interests.

But Louie, as his friends call him, is irrepressible when it comes to safety and security. He can never stop talking about how one should defend oneself when attacked, or how anything at all can be used for emergency situations. Conversations with Louie almost always start and end with how one can and should imbibe preparedness so that response becomes automatic.

His resumé shows that in the last five years, he has taught courses on workplace safety, crisis management, firefighting, women's self-defense, protective services, diving, and even tactical driving. That is because Louie belongs to and is director of the Emergency Preparedness Information Center, an affiliate of the five-year-old Emergency Response Center (ERC). The ERC is a nongovernment organization of about 30 people that teaches groups and communities how to manage different kinds of emergencies. "The group is like a pool of instructors," he says.

"The Philippines is number one in disasters, so it should also be number one in disaster preparedness and management," Louie told 30 journalists who attended the Safety Seminar organized recently by the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP). He was quoting the World Health Organization's 2000 report that ranked the Philippines No. 1 in natural emergency occurrence.

With the recent spate of killings of journalists in the provinces, the NUJP asked his group to share some tips for when all hell breaks loose in hostile situations that journalists are asked to cover, such as bombings, explosions, fires, earthquakes, landslides, flash floods, insurgency, and the like.

No accidents

It was not by accident, or maybe it was, that Louie added the word "safety" to his vocabulary. In his younger days, he was into biking, mountain climbing and scouting. Mostly outdoor adventures fascinate him. Necessarily, survival in various terrains had to be part of his skills, too.

"I just didn't want to be put in a situation where I would not know what to do, or where I would be helpless," he says when asked what made him safety conscious. He was a fan of McGyver, the hero in the '80s television series, who almost always got out of any risky situation with just about anything he had with him.

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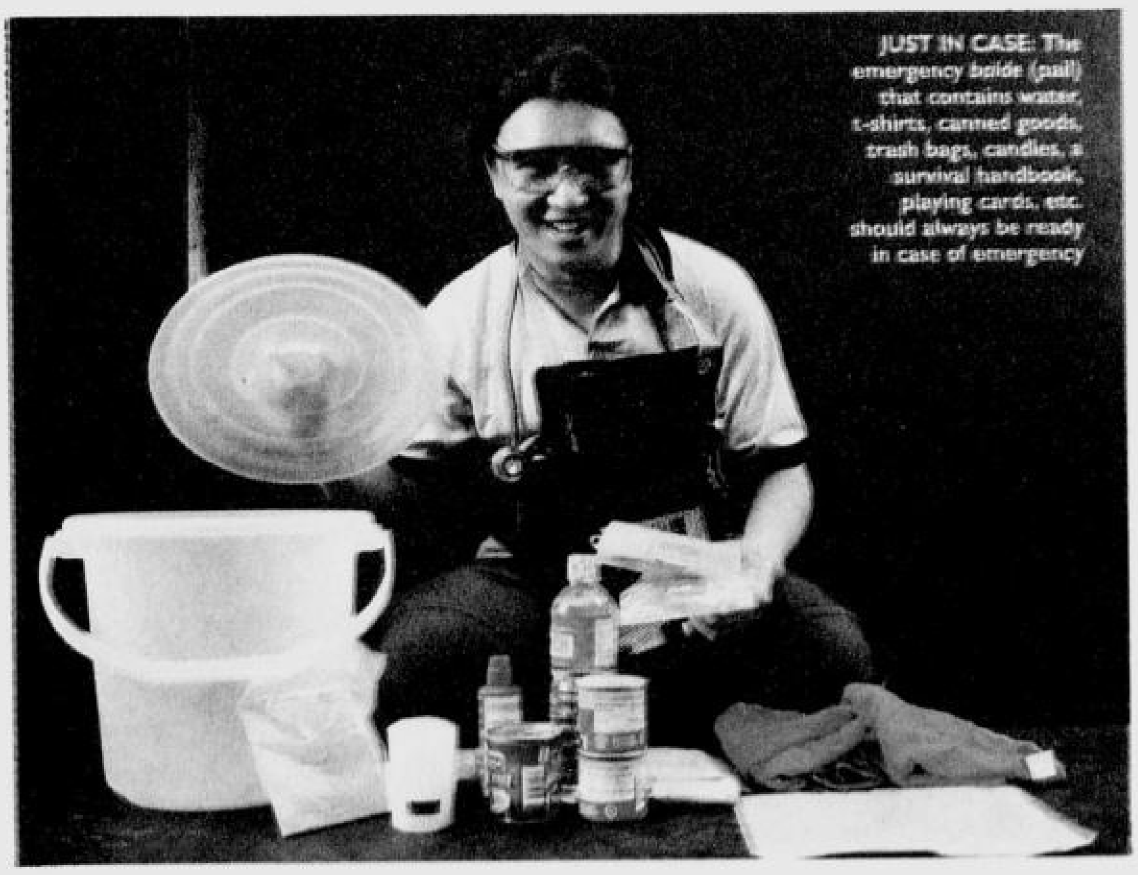

JUST IN CASE: The emergency *balde* (pail) that contains water, t-shirts, canned goods, trash bags, candles, a survival handbook, playing cards, etc. should always be ready in case of emergency

Surviving The Odds

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Adventures

By Leti Boniol
Photographs by Rem Zamora

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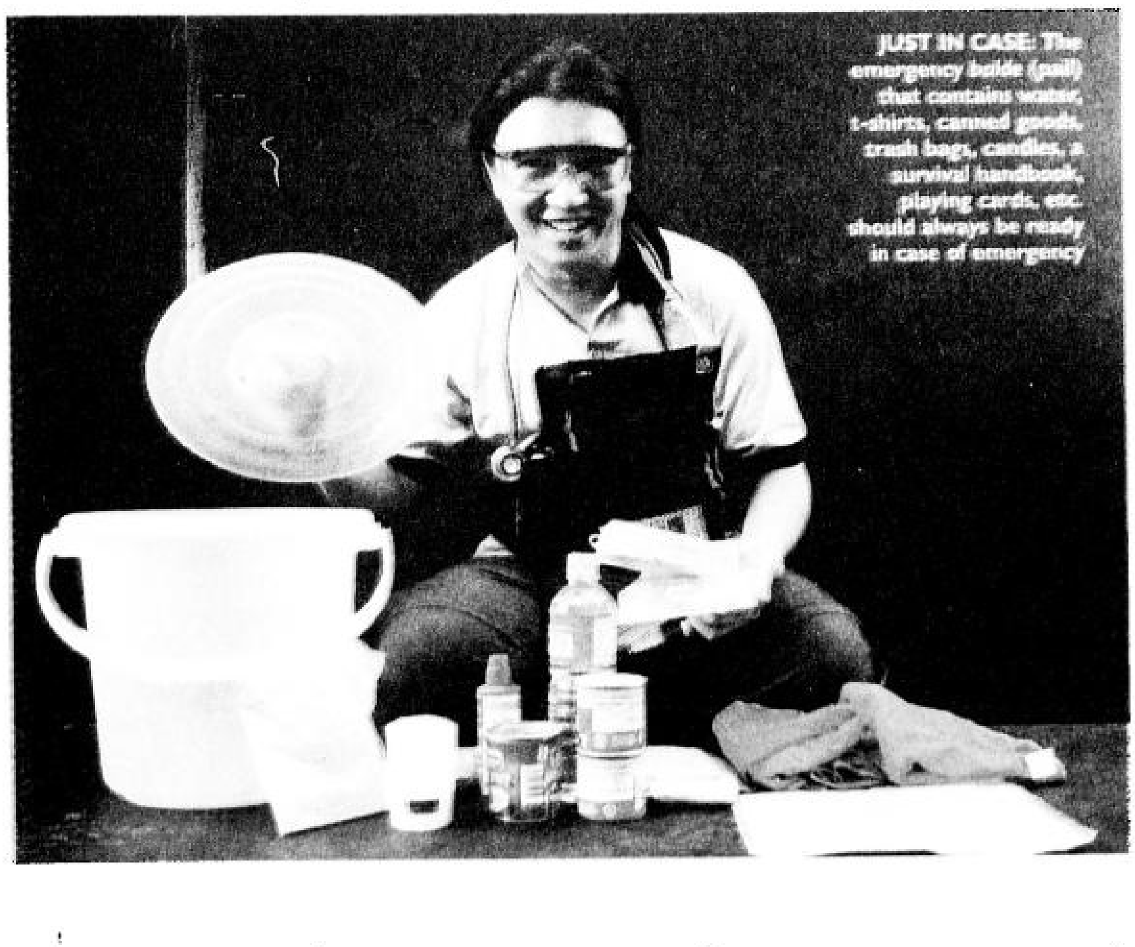

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BEST COPY AVAILABLE

By Gina Abuyuan-Llanes
Photographs by Raffy Lerma

Fit Body, Focused Mind

Hard work has seen Vivian Zapanta through every fitness trend of the last two decades. The key, says Asia's only certified instructor-trainer of the much-touted Stott Pilates method, is keeping healthy inside and out

IF YOU want to get Vivian Zapanta really excited, ask her to talk about her new love, Stott Pilates.

"It's the 'intelligent exercise approach with profound results,'" she explains, after a very animated briefing on the history of Joseph Pilates, founder of the method, and how it came to prima ballerina Moira Stott-Merrithew when she injured her foot. It is the Stott method Vivian is raving about, the "modernized" one which adheres to the natural curvature of the spine (as opposed to the old method, which insists that the spine be straight), and the one in which she is certified to be an instructor-trainer.

"I've been in the fitness industry for the past two decades," Vivian says. "Exercise is my love, my passion. But when I saw this, oh, it was it for me."

The famous physical trainer, whose face, body, and charisma have inspired many to take up various types of exercise, from aqua aerobics to kickboxing, had trained in Pilates before, but found something lacking. It was when she attended another course in Reno, Nevada in '98 that she ran into an old protégé, who inspired her to learn and train in the Stott method. "This teacher used to be my student, and it was like he had metamorphosed into this really good teacher! He talked about the body anatomically, which made sense to me. The method was very logical. I connected with it because I'm a PE major, and have a master's degree in PE."

Real life

The practical yet intellectual approach to it wasn't the only thing that attracted Zapanta to Stott Pilates. The teacher in her made her think about what it could do for the local physical fitness industry. "I thought, 'Wow, I wish all physical trainers could learn this Stott technique.' It can cross over to all exercise types, and they can have more clients because their bodies would be stronger, and they could get results faster. So I bought all the videos and manuals."

She lugged them all home, but realized having a "real live" teacher was different. So off she went to Toronto, financial setbacks notwithstanding, and started learning it firsthand. "I was so dead set on learning it," says Vivian, now 51 and still sporting a curvy figure. "It takes a lot of practice, though. I hardly saw Toronto. From 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., I was at the studio. I ate there, rested there, cleaned the kitchen." Her dedication was well rewarded: She was invited to be an instructor-trainer, and now, the Vivian Zapanta Pilates Studio in Makati is the only one in Asia licensed to train and certify instructors in the Stott method.

Not only does she train future instructors, she helps people get back into shape as well—in a more gentle way.

First, she says, it all has to do with the breathing. When you breathe properly and are able to use your inner abdominal strength, you can get rid of all your bodily aches and pains. Your posture and body alignment have a lot to do with it, as well, which is why Stott is very detailed and scientific.

"Anybody, from the weak to the very strong, can do Pilates," says Vivian. It can also be used to reach whatever goal—whether it's to get a leaner, more flexible body or just to maintain functionality. One client of hers, who came with stiff arms and shoulders, specified that all he wanted was to "hug my children." Another, an 85-year-old woman, just wanted to keep at her golf game. Both have reached their goals and are maintaining them beautifully.

"And you know, if you're a graduate here and are certified here," she adds, "you will be recognized worldwide as a Stott instructor. You can land a job anywhere. Two graduates of mine got their visas by studying here. It's not that I'm bragging, but most of the clubs worldwide would rather have Stott instructors."

Once a teacher

Teaching Polynesian and Maori dance, though, is where Vivian began her fitness career. "I started teaching in high school—my sister would be the 'business manager,' and I'd be the teacher," Vivian recounts, laughing. "She was working in J&J but we were making much more money with the dance lessons!"

It seemed fitness would always be in Vivian's future. "Exercise keeps you young," she adds. "A sedentary life is a killer. If you want to delay aging and fight sickness, you have to move!" She wanted to enroll in a foreign service course "because I wanted to be an ambassador, but that course was closed," she says. "So I took up nutrition because that was open." When she saw how much fun the physical education majors were having, however, she shifted. "My dad was so mad! *Magiging* P.E. teacher *daw ako*, but now I'm still a teacher, but a different kind," she says. "I think it's wonderful that I'm able to mold spirits and minds. I'm so blessed."

One hates to resort to clichés, but here it is: The rest, as they say, is history.

After Vivian graduated from UST, she was offered a "summer job" as an aerobics instructor at the Mandarin, which went on until she got married. She moved to the US, came back, put up her own studio, and with her characteristic doggedness, landed TV show after TV show (Remember "VZ Bodies"?). She is the only American Council of Exercise (ACE) gold-certified personal trainer in the country, an ACE gold certified group fitness instructor.

"That's what I'm about," Vivian says. "Focus. I give 100 percent. If I could give even 110 percent, I'd give it. That TV show? That was a product of my subconscious. I would lock myself in the bathroom, make sure no one could hear me, and I'd practice in front of the mirror as if it were a TV camera. One day, the producers walked into my studio and asked me if I'd be interested in hosting an exercise show. You know what I said? 'Come in, I've been waiting for you.'"

It wasn't all smooth sailing, of course. On the day of the shoot, there was a brownout in Virra Mall. Vivian called a friend whose house had a big garden and a pool, and they shot the first show there. "The producer asked me if I'd done it before, and I said, 'Yes! In my imagination!'"

Mind, body, soul

Apparently, Vivian not only hones her body; she gives equal importance to her mind health and spiritual health, as well. "One thing I like about Pilates is that it involves the mind, body, and soul," she explains. "You cannot do Pilates without focusing, you will not get it. And one thing about my company, is that we also have sessions where we dump our 'garbage'—all positive in, negative out." Vivian is also known for her interest in self-development efforts such as Science of the Mind and P.S.I. (Philippine Seminars Inc.)-Be Synergistically Involved. "What you are inside, and what dwells in your eyes, mouth, ears, your taste, you will attract."

She echoes what Charley Barretto, Science of the Mind founder, says: "When you have a dream, never share it with anyone who does not believe in it. Keep it a secret. You want to share it with people who will support you, who will enflame that desire. Because when you have this dream in your head, you have a mental picture of it, you can hear, see it, taste it, touch it! And then you have that passion for it! Because nothing will be successful without enthusiasm. You have to have that energy, that passion!"

That was how her trip to Toronto materialized, and this Pilates Studio. "It all came to me in my dreams, by my faith, by my prayers, and everyday thanksgiving for all my blessings. Just feeling the sun, seeing my laundry drying. It's great that I have been guided. I have angels in heaven to guide me." She slows down, but her eyes are still shining. "I'm so blessed that God has given me this chance to contribute, to teach. This was what I was born for."

Visit Vivian Zapanta Pilates Studio at Ground Floor-B, Tiffany Place, 156 L.P. Leviste St. Salcedo Village Makati City, Philippines, tel. no. 886-7744, fax. no. 886-7739, cellphone. no. (0917) 844-0944, e-mail: studio@vivianzapanta.com

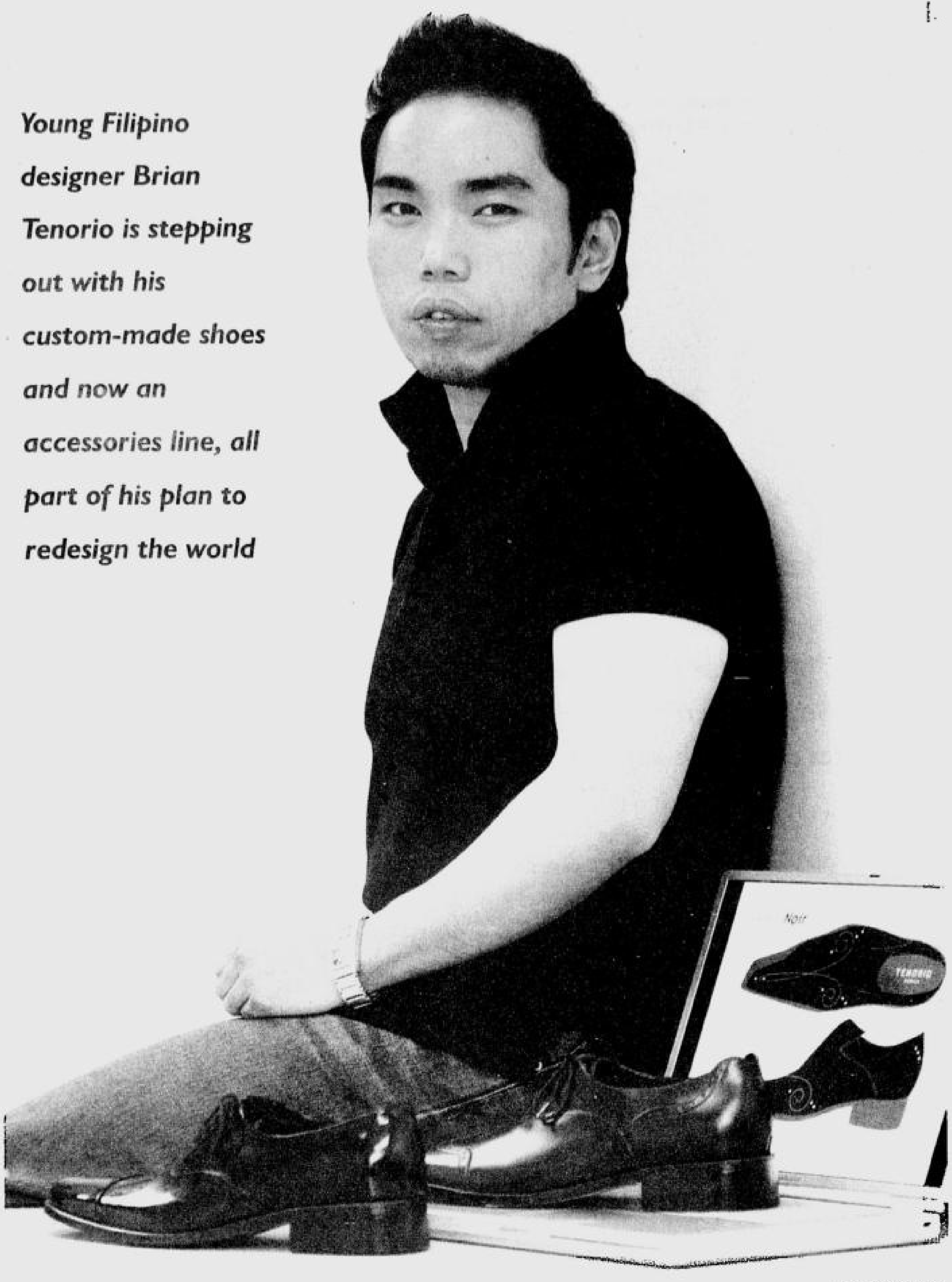
Hanging on: Vivian has remained an auithority in the fitness industry by following her dreams

Stylewatch

By Ruel S. De Vera

His Best Foot Forward

Young Filipino designer Brian Tenorio is stepping out with his custom-made shoes and now an accessories line, all part of his plan to redesign the world



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

IT ALL seems so brash, so daring, yet 27-year-old designer Brian Tenorio will have you know it's all just going according to plan. The perennially well-dressed designer has been putting trademark and refined twists on everything he designs, first in publications and web sites and now, in the field of fashion, armed with a plucky sense of his own individuality. Brian describes the Tenorio style as being "very conceptual. It starts with an idea that you start to match with a particular pattern or image. We're not into deconstruction. It's all about starting somewhere else and making a concept out of it, selling it eventually."

His origins certainly aren't common. His late Filipino-American father Nemesio Tenorio worked for the US government, while his mother Angelina was a manager of a pre-need company. Brian is the elder of two siblings; his younger sister is in the States. Initially wanting to be a lawyer, Brian wasn't really into visual arts. "It was a frustration because I couldn't draw well," he recalls. "Whenever I had a project, it was about how to use materials differently. It was always about the lack of materials in the Philippines, initially." Working in publications since fifth grade, Brian says he really got into layout in first year high school at the Ateneo, in a project under the famous Onofre "Mr. Pagsi" Pagsanjan. "Those were the days of small fonts and Print Master. We just had photocopiers and no scanners." It took a lot of doing, a lot of experimenting and improvising, to hone his distinctive design sense. "It was figuring out how to stylize things just so they'd look better."

Maverick designs

He continued to refine his design sense in college. Brian earned a Communication degree from the Ateneo in 2000, receiving an award for his maverick designs for the literary journal Heights. He really got going with the yearbook Aegis, which also served as his thesis. "It was the first one that was digitally produced in the Philippines," he says. "It was also a really nice yearbook."

Thanks to the notices the yearbook garnered, Brian received a call from the Ayala Corporation, and he was soon put to work designing all sorts of things (annual reports, newsletters and the like) for the corporate giant. "I had just graduated then, and I never had a job before then." That's how he wound up

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The Word

By Fr. Ruben J. Villote

Eight Meditations On Satan and Sin

God, as our creator and loving Father, deserves all our love, respect, and obedience. But He really does not need our obedience: We do

ALTHOUGH horror stories about evil spirits have become popular among movie and TV viewers today, Satan and Sin seem to remain among the most unpalatable and "corny" meditation topics during the season of Lent.

I intend to challenge my readers to watch the first part of the movie "The Passion of the Christ," and reflect through the eight meditation-questions about SATAN and SIN as written by the editors of Catholic Exchange.com

Meditation One

Let's go back to the dialogue in the Garden between Jesus and the devil. The devil states that the price of saving peoples' souls would be too costly. What does he mean by these words?

This is merely the devil's futile attempt to dissuade Jesus from accepting the cross and fulfilling His mission. He was saying to Jesus that the amount of suffering He would endure would be too great a price to pay. Though limited in his understanding of the ways of God, the devil knew that Jesus' death would bring eternal life for all those who accepted His grace, and that sin and death would ultimately be defeated. The devil hates God and all His creation, and he has a special hatred for human beings (see Genesis 3:15 in which God tells the Serpent: "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed"). So he did what he could to try to discourage and prevent Jesus from accomplishing his saving mission.

Meditation Two

The devil unleashes a snake in the Garden of Gethsemane and Jesus crushes it under His foot. What is the symbolism here?

Since this action is not mentioned in the Bible, it represents another instance of the director taking some artistic license for dramatic effect. However, the symbolism of Jesus' action is rooted in the Scriptures. In the book of Genesis, God reveals that the "seed of the woman" (representing both mankind and ultimately, Jesus, who is the "Son of Man" and representative of all humanity) will "bruise the head" of the serpent (Genesis 3:15). Jesus is the "new Adam" (see I Corinthians 15:22), restoring what the first Adam had lost through sin. So Jesus' crushing of the serpent in this scene is used here as a foreshadowing of Christ's victory over the devil and over sin and death through His suffering, death, and resurrection.

Meditation Three

Is the devil character in the film meant to represent and actual spiritual being or is he merely symbolic of the "evil" in the world?

Far from being some abstract personification of "evil," the devil is an actual spiritual being—a fallen angel (or demon). Though this idea sounds quaint or old-fashioned to modern ears, the Catholic Church has consistently taught that the devil is a real being with formidable will and intellect. Being a pure spirit, he is not subject to the laws of the physical world. His natural intellectual abilities far surpass those of human beings. Both the Bible and the Tradition of the Church teach that the devil (also called Satan, meaning "adversary") was the most glorious of the angels, but pride and envy caused him and his followers to rebel against God. As a result of this rebellion, Satan and the other fallen angels (or demons) were cast from God's presence, a separation that will exist for all eternity.

Given the devil's rejection of God, we can reason that he is consumed with hatred towards God and those made in God's image and likeness—humans. Satan, therefore, is surely relentless in his desire to have you and me lose our souls and be separated eternally from the God who loves us. In the movie, and particularly in the scene in the Garden, his aim is to derail Christ's mission on earth—a mission of love, truth, and salvation.

Meditation Four

I have heard people, including some Christian teachers, explain that Satan is not real.

Believing in the devil may seem passé to the supposedly "enlightened," but this is a grave mistake. As C.S. Lewis points out in "The Screwtape Letters," the widespread disbelief in Satan's existence is actually an ingenious move on the part of the Evil One. If he can convince men that he does not exist, that he is as "real" as the bogeyman, then we will not be on guard against him. And if we're not on guard against him, we will almost certainly fall into his traps. Because the reality is that he desperately wants your soul.

Jesus refers to the devil many times in Scripture. For example, in Matthew 25:41, He condemns those who refuse to follow His will and love their neighbor with the words, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels." In these words,

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This Week

Art

Images by the Bay, an exhibit of abstract paintings by Roberto Duldulao at the Heritage Art Center, the Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall A. For details, call 646-8809.

Roberto Duldulao's "Clusters, 2004," on view at the Heritage Art Center

Four different artists exhibit at Kulay Diwa Art Galleries until March 28. Featured in the White Main Gallery is the group show **Memoirs of Mirages** by Joseph Espino, Norman Posecion and Lester Joey Amacio while a solo exhibition, **Traveling**, runs at the Black Gallery featuring recent mixed media works by Jonathan Castro. Kulay Diwa is located at 25 Lopez Ave., Lopez Village, Sucat, Parañaque.

Just Visiting, a group show by US-based artists Dormafe Baluyos, Jennifer Berklich, Ernest Concepcion, Emmanuel Migriño, Riza Manalo and Christine Quisumbing at Mag:net Gallery Paseo, Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas corner Sedeño St., Makati City until March 31.

Music

Philippine Percussions opens Concert at the Park at 6 p.m. today at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium. The program features Bayang Barrios, Bo Razon & Tropikasya, AirDance, Karangahan Dancers and the La Carlota City Festival Drumbeaters. Admission is free.

Cinema

The Cultural Center of the Philippines Dream Theater is offering two famous operas on film, free of charge. On March 10 at 3 p.m., the Franco Zeffirelli film version of Mascagni's **Cavalleria Rusticana** and Leoncavallo's **I'Pagliacci** will be screened. At 7 p.m., the 1990 live performance of "Cavalleria Rusticana" will be screened. For details, call Martin Lopez at 726-1567.

Assumption College presents "3,999" at the Assumption Theater

Schedule of screenings of the **15th International Women's Film Festival**: March 7—"Mitr, My Friend (2 p.m.), "Moral" (4 p.m.), "Swaraaj" (7 p.m.); March 8—"The Faces of the Moon" (4 p.m.), "Soong Sisters" (7 p.m.); March 9—"Te Doy Mis Ojos" (2 p.m.), "Free Radicals" (4 p.m.), "A Piece of Sky" (7 p.m.); March 10—"Swaraaj" (2 p.m.), "Lost in Translation" (4 p.m.), "Kama Sutra: A Tale of Love" (7 p.m.); March 11—Short film: "Agiw" (3 p.m.), "Mga Pusang Gala" (7 p.m.). All screenings will be at the UPFI Cine Adarna, UP Diliman Campus. For details, call 926-3640.

Onstage

The Sining-lahi Polyrepertory, the resident student theater group of PUP, will be staging "Semana Santa," a twinbill year-ender production featuring *Linggo ng Palaspas* written by George de Jesus and *Ang Mahabang Patlang ay Isang Malaking Katanungan* written by Jose Jay V. Cruz on March 8 at 4 p.m., March 9 and 10 at 10:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. at Claro M. Recto Hall, 6/F South Wing, PUP Main Campus.

3,999, a musical tribute/concert in honor of Mother Marie Eugenie to be performed by Assumption students, staff, teachers and other guest artists on March 11 and 12, 7:30 p.m. at the Assumption College Gym. For reservations, call 894-2681.

Deux Ex Machina, Niel de Mesa's futuristic sci-fi one act drama about 52678, a robot who falls in love with an affectionate human girl named Red will be staged on March 11, 12, 18 and 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the One Acts Theater, 2/F Forab Building, 121 Kamuning Road, QC. The play runs in tandem with **Death By Obituaries** about two sisters who are both planning to commit suicide by eating crunchy old newspapers after some serious spanking from their Dad. For ticket reservations, call 410-4485 or 0916-5251038. Koiné Theater Foundation will also be holding open auditions for its April productions of "Over & Over" and "Old Apologies and Nothing But the Truth" on March 9, 6-9 p.m.

Food

Kitaro introduces new **Party Trays** combining the best varieties of sushi, sashimi and maki that can have a minimum of 26 to a maximum of 104 pieces for a big tray. Ordering for Party Trays has also been made easier with one number to call, 911-1115. Kitaro Japanese-to-go has newly opened branches in Walter Mart Pasong Tamo, Robinsons Place Pioneer, Manila Plaza along CM. Recto Avenue, Bridgeway Food Court in Medical City, Tagaytay City and Berkley Square in Tandang Sora, QC.

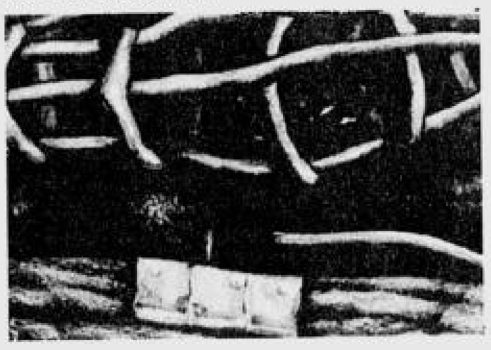
Atbp

Cupertino Center for Special Children celebrates its 40th anniversary on March 7-11 with the following activities: A Broadway musical (March 7); Sportsfest (March 8); Eco-Art on the Spot Contest (March 9); Variety Show (March 10); Film Showing (March 11); Seminar with Dr. Vilma Baggay-Salcedo, Dr. Edilberto Dizon and Dr. Ma Therese J. Macapagal (March 12). For details, call 928-4115.

The University of Santo Tomas Graduate School Alumni Association invites all alumni to attend the **3rd St. Antoninus of Florence Awards Night and the UST Graduate School Alumni Homecoming** on March 12, 4 to 8 p.m. at the Quezon City Sports Club along E. Rodriguez Avenue Extension. For inquiries, call 731-5396 and 740-9732.

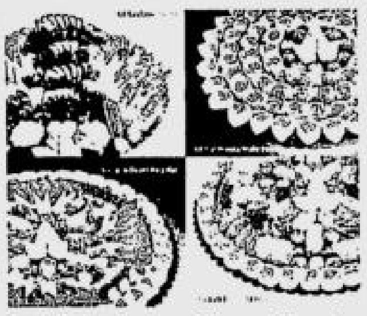
Repertory Philippines is holding **auditions** for its upcoming production of **The Emperor's New Clothes** on March 9 at 7 p.m. at the Rep office in Karrivin Plaza, 2316 Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City. Interested parties should bring a resumé, recent 2 x 2 photo, and a piano score from any Broadway or West End musical. They should also be fluent in English and be willing to perform daily from August until December 2005. Registration for the auditions will start at 5 p.m. For details, call 887-0710.

Austrian yoga expert Christian Fliesher will be in Manila for a week to conduct a series of Asthanga classes—Mysore (7-9 a.m.) and Led Asthanga . (6:30-8 p.m.) everyday from March 14-18, which will culminate with a workshop on Bandhas, Breath and Body Alignment on March 19. The workshop will explore the nature of three bandhas (locks) using pranayama techniques, the relationship of bandhas to breath and the correct body alignment. All level students are welcome to attend. Limited slots. For inquiries, call the Sai Shanti Yoga Sanctuary at 817-0299.



Joseph Espino and others hold "Memoirs of Mirages" at the Kulay Diwa Art Galleries

The **Ramon Magsaysay Student Essay Competition** is on. High school and college students are invited to research and write on how the lives and work of the Magsaysay awardees influence them. Participants may submit 2-4 page essays on the theme, "Inspiring Me To Make a Difference: Personal Lessons from a Magsaysay Awardee." Deadline for submission is July 30. To research and download entry forms, students may surf www.rmaf.org.ph or email essay@rmaf.org.ph, or visit the RMAF Asian Library. For details, call 521-3166 to 81.



Kitaro offers the new party trays

The Guided and Unified Interaction for the Development of Children, Inc. is in need of **volunteers for Gabayan**, a 10-day summer camp for children with various disabilities scheduled on May 13-22 at Obando, Bulacan. Volunteers are requested to attend training for two weekends beginning March 13 until May 8 at Mandaluyong Elementary School, Mandaluyong City. Those interested must be at least college student or professionals in education, social work, health and social sciences. For inquiries, call Gerry Dela Zerna at 0917-8437758.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

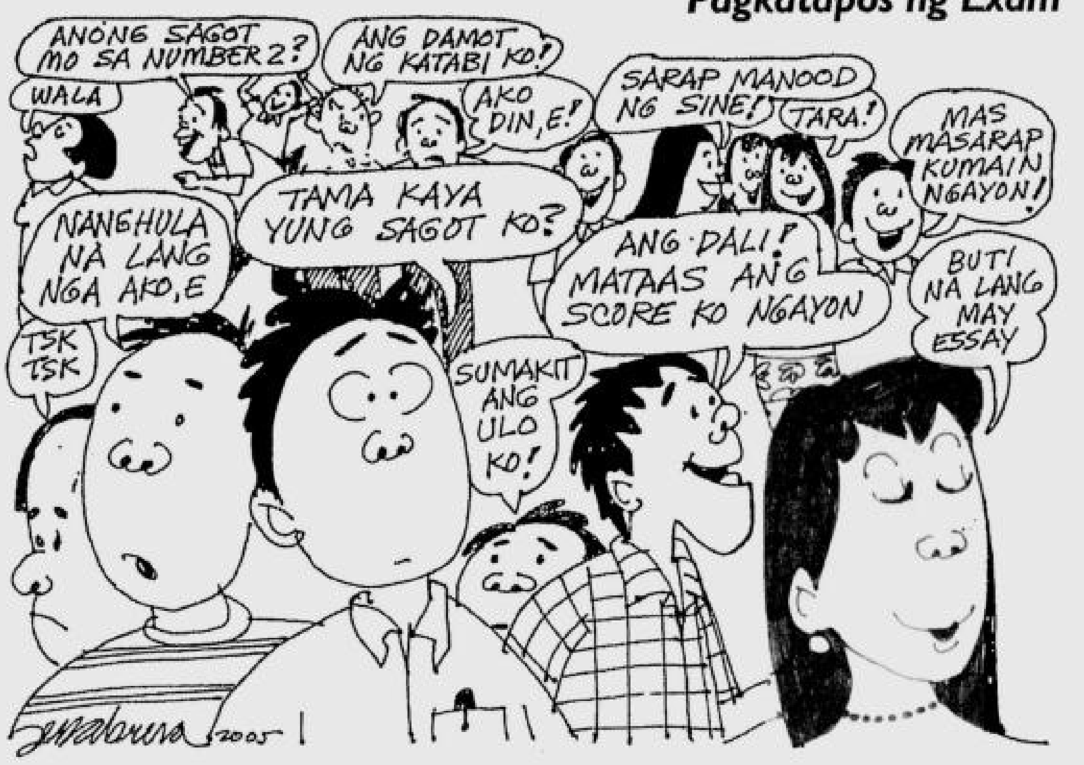
- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Pinoy Nga!

By Jess Abrera

Pagkatapos ng Exam


ANONG SAGOT MO SA NUMBER 2?
ANG DAMOT NG KATABI KO!
WALA
AKO DIN, E!
SARAP MANOOD NG SINE!
TARA!
MAS MASARAP KUMAIN NGAYON!
TAMA KAYA YUNG SAGOT KO?
NANGHULA NA LANG NGA AKO, E
ANG DALI! MATAAS ANG SCORE KO NGAYON
BUTI NA LANG MAY ESSAY
TSK TSK
SUMAKIT ANG ULO KO!
2005

The Word

...from page 6

Jesus joins the fate of those who refuse to do His will with that of the devil—namely, hell. The apostle John makes the essential mission of Jesus clear in his first letter: "The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil" (I John 3:8).

Meditation Five

While we're on the subject of the devil, please define "sin" for me.

Sin is any free, deliberate behavior on our part that we know offends God and breaks His law.

Meditation Six

Why is sin such a big deal?

First of all because God, as our creator and loving Father, deserves all of our love, respect, and obedience. But He really does not need our obedience: We do. For He loves us more than we love ourselves and know us better that we know ourselves. So every time we say "no" to Him and His will, we damage ourselves and others. Some sin, called venial or light, weakens our relationship with God. Mortal or deadly sin ruptures our relationship with Him. This relationship is restored by seeking His grace.

Meditation Seven

Why is there so much sin and opposition to God?

Because of the sin of our first parents (original sin), we inherit a humanity that has a natural tendency towards sin. But that is not the whole story. Satan is a master of deceitful advertising. He makes sin appear glamorous and desirable, just as he did in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3). He tries to convince us that God forbids things not because they are harmful, but because they will make us like Him and He wants to keep us down, subservient, under His feet. So Satan markets sin as liberating while all the while it is the exact opposite: enslaving. Our first parents fell for it, and so do we.

People's sins are rooted in their pride, anger, envy, greed, lust, gluttony, and laziness, otherwise known as the "seven deadly sins." Just as choosing the high road can be difficult, choosing the evils of this world can be very attractive at times. It can all be traced back to the fall of Lucifer, the "Angel of Light"—the devil—who rebelled against God and established his kingdom on earth. God thereafter has allowed people the freedom to choose for themselves between His way of truth, selflessness, and light, and the devil's way of lies, selfishness, and darkness.

Meditation Eight

If sin is such a grave matter, why don't we hear more about it in the public discourse?

We live today in permissive society that embraces sin as virtue. There are the ways of God and there are the ways of the world—two very different ways for humanity to live. The communications media are often filled with the implicit message that "anything goes" and that sin is "no big deal."

His

...from page 6

designing for Jaime Zobel, a commitment he keeps until now. Among his notable graphic design assignments were those for the Cultural Center of the Philippines and Globe Telecom; he is also an accomplished web designer.

But Brian wanted to design other things. In 2003, he went in an entirely new direction: shoes. "It was natural for me because I live in Marikina." He found that he wanted a particular combination of design, cost and quality. "I would see bits and pieces I liked in different shoes here so I thought if I could make shoes that were exactly what I wanted, then it would be possible to make beautiful shoes here without compromise."

The shoes combined new school tech (they're designed primarily on a computer) and old world craftsmanship—they're made by hand from handpicked leather by Marikina artisans. Brian says that because the Philippine is not a leather-producing country, he sources his raw material from Italy, China, Japan, India and Pakistan. He personally oversees every single pair produced.

Leather menagerie

The men's line, known as Tenorio Manila, was the first to get going, and would eventually be followed by the women's line in late 2004, Creatures, all designed by Brian. Made mostly to order (with a very small number in some outlets), the shoes snuck up on the public but also stood out because of their quality. "Nobody really paid attention to us at first," Brian says. "Now, I think we're the most expensive brand." The basic shoe costs P3,950, while an upcoming model with Chinese printing on silk and leather will cost US$300.

The plunge into fashion has been a tiring but fun exercise for Brian. True to its unconventional personality, Tenorio Manila has no showroom or boutique; instead, it has a web site, and interested customers call up Brian for a personal fitting. He believes in making sure that the customer finds a shoe that suits them, making suggestions as to style and other details. Brian gushes about his next line of shoes, business shoes called Costumes of Pursuit, a virtual leather menagerie that redoes classics like wingtips and captoes with names like the Tyrant, the Taipan, the Theist and the Tycoon.

Happy to be designing for the Ayala companies, Brian says it made sense to move into fashion. "I thought of designing horizontally, expanding into fashion. Essentially, we're a design house that has applications in other things." He's quite excited about the Boston launch of his accessories line, Tryst, and his line of bags, Strange/r. Indeed, among the items are a platinum/white gold ring with onyx and diamonds called Day and Night, as well as a faux snakeskin backpack specially designed for the Macintosh PowerBook. Next year, Brian looks forward to the touchdown of his undergarment line, Torso. "They're only sold in sets of a dozen, a dozen different ones in one set." His company's apparently in good hands: last January, Tenorio Manila's business plan took first prize in the professional category of the Battle of the Business Plans, organized by Gen-P, a group of Harvard alumni.

Premier label

Often called an intense person, Brian does aspire to become more laid-back. He spends a lot of his time on the Internet or enjoying long walks or drives. Ask for his hobbies and Brian rattles off a progression of pursuits effortlessly: "shopping, dining out, some clubs, bookstores, cafes, poetry, jazz, bossa nova and travel." Brian has some lofty goals in mind for his different design dalliances— "As a business, we want to be the premier Asian label because there's none"—clarifying that he considers both Yohji Yamamoto and Rafe Totengco New York labels. He also wants to put up a design academy of sorts: "I feel like there's no real big design institution in the Philippines; that's why it's one of my eventual goals to put up a school or design center like that."

So what exactly is it that makes a 27-year-old designer, no matter how daring or pioneering, with no previous experience in fashion, believe that he can carve a niche in the fashion scene? "I just feel that every person has a personal insight into what is beautiful, and it works for us from a third world perspective because I always have to work with a limited amount of resources and material," Brian Tenorio says serenely. "I feel that I'm really lucky that a lot of people agree with what I find beautiful."

For inquiries, call 0917-6280926, e-mail now@tenorium.com or visit http://www.tenorium.com

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